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Baghdad rejects border mediation

Mubarak claims success

Hectic talks in Baghdad, Kuwait, Riyadh to defuse crisis
Klibi rushes to Iraq; Assad, Hussein optimistic of a solution

CAIRO, July 24, (Agencies): Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak ended talks in Kuwait and Baghdad today with a four-point plan aimed at narrowing differences between Iraq and Gulf Arab states, Cairo radio reported.

The state-owned radio described Mubarak's talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and Kuwait's HH the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah as "successful." But Iraq played down Arab mediation efforts.

Tareq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, told INA: "With due respect to our Arab brothers, it has never happened in the past that such disputes were solved by Arab mediation committees."

He called for direct talks on the issue between Iraq and Kuwait, playing down Arab mediation efforts while not rejecting the efforts outright.

Mubarak later headed for Saudi Arabia, where he held consultations with Saudi monarch King Fahd. The Egyptian leader was expected to return to Cairo later tonight.

Mubarak offered both sides in the dispute a four-point peace plan, which early editions of the Cairo daily Al Ghomhuria described as follows:

- Ending the war of words and the threat of military force.
- Maintaining differences within the framework of Arab League consultations, and not to allow international bodies such as the United Nations to get involved.
- Staging a four-nation Arab summit with the participation of the leaders of Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, either in Cairo or Riyadh, preceded by a meeting of the foreign ministers of the four Arab states.
- And the border dispute between Iraq and Kuwait should not be tackled at this stage.

Arab diplomats in Baghdad told Reuters that Mubarak was striving to set up a meeting of senior Iraqi and Kuwaiti officials.

Iraq, desperate for oil revenues to rebuild its war-damaged economy, is expected to push for a policy that will drive up oil prices from the present average of \$16 a barrel. It has set a price of \$25 as its target.

Mubarak told Egyptian reporters on his plane, his mission was to "clear the air in the Arab world and unify Arab ranks."

Cairo wanted to set up a meeting, hopefully at foreign minister level, between Iraq, Kuwait, Egypt and



Mubarak (left) in talks with HH the Amir.

Iraq claims 'unanimous' Opec support



Iraqi Oil Minister Chalabi talks to reporters in Geneva. (Reuters wirephoto)



Opec Secretary-General Dr Subroto of Indonesia waves to reporters upon his arrival in Geneva.



Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Hisham Nazer talks to reporters in Geneva. (Reuters wirephoto)



Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Azgashah is surrounded by reporters as he arrives in Geneva.

UAE quota may rise

Baghdad wants \$25 base, eyes \$30

GENEVA, July 24, (Agencies): Opec ministers gathered today for critical talks on new price and production guidelines but sidestepped the confrontation between Iraq and Kuwait over oil.

"We are here to solve oil problems," said Saudi Arabia's influential Oil Minister, Hisham Nazer, as he arrived for the mid-year meeting on Thursday of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Opec Secretary-General, Subroto, said, "we are an economics organisation. We talk about economics."

Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul Raheem Al Chalabi, surrounded by dozens of reporters as he entered the lobby of a luxury hotel where the talks are held, only discussed his plans to press for a much higher target price for the crude oil. The current benchmark is \$18 a barrel.

Chalabi said in Baghdad, before leaving for Geneva, all Opec members supported Iraq on oil output and quotas.

"The results of the recent contacts and meetings by Opec states showed unanimous support for Iraq's stand which calls for fixing production ceiling and quotas until prices improve and a new minimum (ceiling) is set by the organisation."

INA said Iraq had demanded a benchmark price of \$25 a barrel with an eventual goal of \$30 a barrel.

Chalabi did not specify the production ceiling and quotas sought by Iraq, but said:

"Iraq has recently demanded that (oil) prices should not be under \$25 a barrel this year which gives an indication that the organisation, by limitation of production ceiling, discipline and adherence (to quotas), can achieve the prices it aims at."

Saddam claimed his debt-ridden country has lost \$14 billion during the past year because a world oil glut has sent crude prices tumbling.

Nazer told reporters he was "confident" that Opec would reach an agreement at the summer meeting "along the lines" of the Gulf proposal, which would limit the production to about 22.5 million barrels a day in the next few months, its cap for the first half of the year was 22.1 million barrels.

A confidential report prepared by Opec's secretariat in Vienna gave the production as 23.5 million barrels a day in the April-June quarter, according to sources familiar with the document.

The "required production" — or demand — for Opec's oil was estimated at 21.8 million barrels a

day in the third quarter of the year, rising to 24.4 million barrels in the last three months of the year, said the sources, who demanded anonymity.

Opec's excess production sent prices tumbling in the spring.

The average price of a basket of seven crudes monitored by the Opec plummeted to \$13.64 a barrel in June before climbing to \$16.25 a barrel last week.

The Opec market report, according to the sources, said an overall production ceiling of 22 million barrels a day in the second half of the year would improve prices considerably.

"For Opec to achieve its price target of \$18 a barrel on the average for the whole year 1990, an average price of more than \$19 a barrel should be realised in the remaining part of this year," the sources quoted the report as saying.

Several oil ministers expressed support for the higher target price.

Iran has proposed a reference price of \$20 a barrel while Iraq wants a \$25 goal.

"Saudi Arabia is for a higher price," said Nazer, without mentioning a figure.

Iraq's Chalabi said his country was

New Council member
KUWAIT, July 24, (Kuna): An Amir order issued here today appointed Jassem Ahmed Al Amir as member of the newly elected National Council in replacement of Michael Abdullatif Al Hebeski who has recently resigned.

another Arab country, probably Saudi Arabia, he said.

The meeting would be to pave the way for a summit of the four countries.

The Egyptian leader, the United States' closest Arab ally, said he had spoken with Saudi Arabia's King Fahd before flying to Baghdad.

Meanwhile, Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi arrived in Baghdad today, apparently to try and help defuse the crisis between Baghdad and Kuwait.

He was greeted by Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz, the Iraqi News Agency reported.

The Arab League chief visited Kuwait last week and conferred with Kuwaiti leaders on the one-week-old row.

Kuwait's Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Abdul Rahman Al Awadi said today that Egyptian president's brief visit to Kuwait is within the framework of a tour of Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in an effort to contain the Kuwait-Iraq dispute.

Al Awadi said that during Mubarak's visit he held a closed-door meeting with HH the Amir in the presence of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

He noted that the talks tackled the outcome of Mubarak's talks in Baghdad in addition to the details pertaining to the dispute between Kuwait and Iraq which Kuwait is keen to keep it an Arab issue.

The minister also praised the outcome of the talks here and underlined the positive role which Egypt undertakes to contain the Arab differences and to exert its utmost to strengthen Arab solidarity.

"Kuwait which appreciates the sincere efforts being exerted by the Saudi monarch King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz and the other Arab leaders, considers the visit a responsible, brotherly step toward strengthening the Arab national security," said Al Awadi.

The Kuwaiti minister also hoped that all Arab efforts would succeed for the benefit of the Arab unity and strengthen stability and security in the Arab world.

In a statement to Kuna in Damascus, Awadi said that Kuwait would settle any dispute with any Arab country within the framework of the Arab family away from any foreign interference.

He described the existing conflict between Kuwait and Iraq as transient, adding there are more important issues threatening Arab national security.

Awadi said his meeting with Syrian President Hafez Assad was positive. He said President Assad had expressed his keenness on maintaining Arab solidarity and to refrain from stirring up marginal issues that

rules.

Flames, smoke and dust obscured the embattled town all day as thunderous shell blasts echoed across the rugged hills of Iqlim Al Tuffah, or the apple region, the latest flashpoint in turbulent Lebanon.

Police said 13 combatants were killed and 59 wounded on the ninth day of fighting for control of Jarjou and a cluster of surrounding villages near Israel's self-designated "security zone."

The casualties were evacuated to hospitals in the nearby

Kuwaitis pin hopes on Arab efforts

Britain urges peaceful settlement

By Lima Al Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

COMMENTING on the recent developments between Iraq and Kuwait, a cross-section of the Kuwaiti people, including National Council members and dignitaries have expressed concern at the crisis and hoped that the situation will be defused amicably in brotherly mediation of Arab countries to effectively contain this crisis.

Describing this episode as temporary, Behbehani said that he believed in the wise policy of all Arab countries to defuse this issue.

Another council member, Talal Al Ayar, said that the crisis began with the initiation of the Iraqi memorandum which was received with total surprise by the Kuwaiti people.

He termed reports attributed to US as baseless and said that these reports were intended to cause confusion and misunderstanding with all parties concerned.

Essa Al Refai, said that he did not consider the demands tabled by Iraq to be legitimate as Kuwait was in the forefront in providing all needed assistance to Iraq during its 8-year-old war with Iran and added that he saw no logic in Iraq's present accusations.

Specifically addressing Iraq's claim that Kuwait had contributed to reduction in the oil prices, he said that Kuwait is one of the members of the 13-member Opec. Pragmatically, speaking, he said, Iraq should have assisted Kuwait if it felt the need for increasing its oil production quota.

Agencies add: Britain reaffirmed today that it was "following very closely" the current events in the Gulf, in the aftermath of the tensions between Iraq and Kuwait.

Without identifying any country by name, a Foreign Office spokesman in London said that the UK "would deplore any threat or use of force."

The spokesman went on to restate that the British government was hoping that the present differences "would be settled by discussions and peaceful means."

The Soviet Union today regretted the dispute between Kuwait and Iraq and expressed hope the two Gulf neighbours would act in a way to prevent exacerbation of the situation.

The Kremlin's first official reaction to the recent crisis between Kuwait and Iraq over border demarcation and oil production came from Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuri Gremitsikh who said the two sides should solve the issue as good neighbours.

The spokesman, in a news briefing, voiced confidence that

atmosphere.

To gain an overall of the existing situation, this reporter interviewed several people from different walks of life.

Ahmed Ismaeel Behbehani, a member of Kuwait's National Council commented that foreign reports are endeavouring to "flare up" the situation. He added that we do believe in the capability of Kuwait and

NEWSWATCH

Corruption charges: An investigator probing corruption charges against several aides and relatives of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has requested an extension of Wednesday's deadline for completing his work.

Qasim Malik, chairman of the anti-corruption committee established by Benazir amidst an opposition clamour, told reporters Tuesday there was too much work remaining. (AP)

Bomb blast kills 3: A huge bomb planted by guerrillas killed three policemen and a Roman Catholic nun in Northern Ireland on Tuesday.

The unmarked police car in which the officers were travelling on the outskirts of Armagh city was flung into the air by the force of the blast and landed on its roof. (Reuters)

PFLP-GC threatens: A radical, Damascus-based Palestinian group on Tuesday threatened to launch attacks against Israel from Jordanian territory.

A spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command said the attacks would be "to retaliate for the arrests of our groups' members everywhere in this country at the hands of Jordanian authorities." (AP)

Kremlin denies mass murder: The Soviet Union said on Tuesday more than 43,000 Germans died in internment camps in its post-war occupation zone of Germany.

It denied allegations of deliberate maltreatment or mass murder but acknowledged that there were instances of brutality "which at times recalled the monstrous crimes of the fascists during the war." (Reuters)

Libyan envoy: Special envoy of Libyan leader Moammar Khaddafi on Indo-Pak relations Dr Mohammad Ahmed Al Sharif met Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Islamabad and delivered in her a message from his leader.

According to the emissary, the message carries Khaddafi's concern over the current tension between India and Pakistan and the need to resolve the Kashmir issue peacefully. (Kuna)

Currency Rates

THE Central Bank of Kuwait currency rates against the Kuwaiti dinar on July 24, valued for July 27, 1990.

Currency	Buying	Selling
US dollar	289.24	290.24
Sterling	526.42	528.86
Deutsche mark	177.77	178.60
Swiss franc	208.50	209.49
French franc	652.97	653.21
Italian lire	8002.49	8003.42
Japanese yen	601.9444	601.9539
Bahraini dinar	767.21	770.47
UAE dirham	0.7873	0.7890
Saudi riyal	0.7711	0.7744
Qatari riyal	0.7942	0.7982
Omani riyal	751.07	754.56

Asian currency exchange rates against Kuwaiti dinar:

Currency	1,000	1,000	1,000
Indian Rs	16.600	16.600	16.600
Pak Rs	13.350	13.350	13.350
Sri Lankan Rs	7.220	7.220	7.220
Singapore dollar	160.50	160.50	160.50
Hong Kong dollar	37.30	37.30	37.30
Bangladesh taka	9.670	9.670	9.670
Philippine peso	12.600	12.600	12.600

Courtesy: Abdulaziz & Ali Al Youssef Al Muzaini Co.

■ The US dollar fell against other major foreign currencies in cautious European trading Tuesday. Gold prices were higher.

In Tokyo, the dollar rose to a closing bid of \$368.25 a troy ounce, up from \$367.75 bid late Monday.

In London, the British pound rose to \$1.8250 from \$1.8215 late Monday.

Other late dollar rates in Europe, compared with late Monday.

- 1.6185 West German marks, down from 1.6278
- 1.3750 Swiss francs, down from 1.3868
- 5.4270 French francs, down from 5.4598
- 1.8230 Dutch guilders, down from 1.8430
- 1.18475 Italian lire, down from 1.19200
- 1.1577 Canadian dollars, down from 1.1568

Gold rose in London to a late bid price of \$368.25 a troy ounce, up from \$367.75 bid late Monday.

In Zurich, gold rose to a closing bid of \$368.35, up from \$367.75 bid late Monday.

Earlier, in Hong Kong, gold rose \$6.97 to close at a bid \$369.25.

Militiamen loyal to Syria launch pre-dawn assault on Hezbollah-held village

NABATIYEH, July 24, (AP): Shiite Muslim militiamen loyal to Syria staged a pre-dawn assault behind a rain of shellfire today to dislodge Iranian-backed rivals from a strategic redoubt near Israel's enclave in south Lebanon.

Police said by sundown fighting raged from house to house with automatic weapons, and shoulder-fired and hand grenades in the alleyways of the embattled town of Jarjou, with no clear victor.

A police spokesman said an estimated 1,500 irregulars of the mainstream Amal faction backed by 500 pro-Syrian

Baath Party militiamen launched the attack at 5.30 am (0230 GMT).

The attackers stormed through the defences of the fundamentalist Hezbollah on Jarjou's northwestern, southern and southeastern flanks in close-quarter combat, the spokesman said.

"Fighters of Amal and the Baath Party are pushing Hezbollah's defenders toward the northern sector of Jarjou, which is under incessant artillery bombardment," the spokesman said. He cannot be named under standing

rules.

Flames, smoke and dust obscured the embattled town all day as thunderous shell blasts echoed across the rugged hills of Iqlim Al Tuffah, or the apple region, the latest flashpoint in turbulent Lebanon.

Police said 13 combatants were killed and 59 wounded on the ninth day of fighting for control of Jarjou and a cluster of surrounding villages near Israel's self-designated "security zone."

The casualties were evacuated to hospitals in the nearby

market town of Nabatiyeh as well as south Lebanon's port cities of Sidon and Tyre, the spokesman added.

The new casualties raised the overall toll to 139 people killed and 427 wounded since July 16, when Hezbollah wrested Jarjou from Amal in a surprise attack, touching off the latest round in a three-year, on-and-off confrontation.

The Baathist active intervention on Amal's side suggests

(Continued on Page 2)

INTERNATIONAL

Lanka wages war with commandos on bicycles

COLOMBO, July 24, (Reuters). Sri Lankan security forces are using makeshift bombers and commandos on bicycles to drive Tamil separatist guerrillas back into the jungles and towards political concessions.

"There's no point in having heavy bombers and fast planes," Brigadier Lucky Wijayaratne said at the army's eastern Trincomalee headquarters. "This is a slow-moving war."

An offensive by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) last month prompted the government to unleash troops from the

barracks where they had been confined since peace talks between the two sides began more than a year ago.

The security forces have driven the Tigers from major towns in the Tamil northeast, fighting mainly with the traditional weapon of the guerrillas, the AK-47 assault rifle.

The army's most powerful arms on the jungle battlefields include two-seater, propeller-driven Sia Marchetti aircraft, bought for training and converted to carry a rocket under each wing.

Special Task Force commandos, trained by

former British Special Air Services men, patrol the eastern hush on freshly painted bicycles.

The war is not going in favour of the Tigers, who had effective control of the region where they are demanding a Tamil home until they broke the 14-month ceasefire six weeks ago.

The army controls Trincomalee with nervous soldiers manning roadblocks at most street corners.

The gunfire of rebel snipers still disturbs the outskirts of the army's northern frontier town of Vavuniya.

"You don't tell us where the LTTE are but you tell the LTTE about the army," said a plain-clothes soldier, speaking in Tamil to women who had come to beg at an army camp for the release of husbands and sons detained since the fighting erupted.

Rhetoric in Colombo about annihilating the guerrilla force diminishes to greater pragmatism among officers in the field who do not underestimate the Tigers' skills, honed over 20 years, in jungle warfare and in asserting their authority over villagers.

"To give the devil his due, he's not going to

be caught with his pants down," said Colonel Parami Kulatunga in Vavuniya.

Sri Lanka's army, which has not fought a conventional war since independence in 1948, has at least trebled its strength in the past seven years to around 50,000 men trained specifically for counter-insurgency.

Thirteen months of enforced co-operation with the Tigers during peace talks gave it some insight into rebel logistics.

It also learned from watching Indian troops, sent into Sri Lanka as peacekeepers, lose nearly 1,200 men in 30 months to Tiger

attacks, more than in India's last conventional war with Pakistan in 1971. The Indians left Sri Lanka in March.

Sri Lankan forces noted that large army patrols working in conventional military formations took heavy casualties when confronted with landmines and Tiger snipers, who targeted the officers.

The Sri Lankans are now advancing into the jungle in much smaller groups, aiming to fight with guerrilla tactics and to undermine Tamil confidence in the Tigers as a military force.

Lebanon

(Continued from Page 1)

The Syrian government of President Hafez Assad wants to curb Iran's growing influence through Hezbollah's correlative in Lebanon.

The Syrians have 40,000 troops stationed in northern, eastern and central Lebanon under a 1976 Arab League mandate to smother Lebanon's Muslim-Christian civil war, now in its 16th year.

But the Syrian army has refrained from entering south Lebanon to avert a collision with Israel, Israel considers south Lebanon a "red line" across which it would not tolerate Syrian military presence.

The Lebanese Baath Party, which has a 1,500-strong militia and is led by Abdulla Al Amin, a Shiite, dispatched fighters to the south last week. But they kept a low profile until today's attack.

At stake is the mastery of the 1.2 million Shiites, who make up the largest single sect in Lebanon, the only country outside Iran where Ayatollah Khomeini's brand of Shiite fundamentalism has taken root.

"Jarjou must be taken from Hezbollah and we shall take it," the commander of the Baathist contingent, who goes by the nom de guerre of Abu Kani, told reporters.

Communists from the Baathists and Amal claimed their fighters overran more than one half of Jarjou. But Hezbollah contended the attack was repulsed in a "new bloodbath."

Both Amal and Hezbollah put out fresh claims that Israeli border guns pounded their positions in and around Jarjou. But the claim could not be independently verified.

Amal attempted to recapture Jarjou with the support of Palestinian fighters last Friday. But the onslaught was crushed after two days of close-quarters combat.

The new assault scuttled efforts by the Al-Swiss International Committee of the Red Cross to arrange a mere ceasefire to evacuate dozens of corpses rotting on the streets of Jarjou since Friday.

It also shattered a one-day lull that was used by villagers to flee the apple region, which covers 50 square miles (129 square km) of rocky territory southeast of Sidon.

Police said more than 50,000 of the region's 75,000 population have escaped on foot or by car to safer areas at Sidon, Tyre and Nabatieh.

The police spokesman said an 800-man force dispatched by Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation to the embattled province last week apparently took no part in today's attack.

The PLO publicly maintains it intervened to stop the Indo-Shiite bloodletting. But the PLO actually wants to block any Hezbollah expansion which would threaten its main bases at Sidon.

A wounded Amal fighter evacuated from the frontlines said militia assault groups advanced about 200 metres into the village outskirts where the offensive met tough resistance.

He said Amal forces were battling from house-to-house to try to win more ground.

Today's fighting defied efforts by an Iranian embassy team to end the battles that forced thousands of people to flee from Iqlim Al Tuffah.

Sarwari detained in Indian capital

NEW DELHI, July 24, (Kuna). Several Afghan groups in India urged the Indian government not to have mercy on former Afghan Deputy Prime Minister Assadullah Sarwari, who has been arrested by Delhi police for not having valid and relevant travel documents.

Sarwari, who was arrested by the police on June 12, is now languishing in Tihar jail of the capital and his case is pending in the district magistrate's court.

Engineer Wazir Ahmed, representative of Islamic unity of Islamic mujahedeen, and Abdul Basir of Jamiat-E-Islami Afghanistan, said at a press conference here that Sarwari was one of the main culprits, responsible for crimes and tyrannical acts against innocent people.

As a head of the Agsa, the secret police service of Afghanistan, he is alleged to have committed brutalities against sympathisers of mujahedeen.

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Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh (left) meets Soviet President Gorbachev in the Kremlin. (Reuters wirephoto)

20 militants killed

Gunbattle at Kashmir border

SRINAGAR, July 24, (Agencies). Indian frontier guards killed 20 Muslim militants and arrested nine others who sneaked into India-held Kashmir from Pakistan, a senior official said today.

"It was a major success," the official said of the incident late yesterday. He said the militants died in a gunbattle with Indian border guards at Kupwara, 90 kilometres (56 miles) north of Srinagar.

At least five other Muslim separatists were killed

in three separate incidents across Kashmir today. The deaths brought the total number of people killed to at least 863 since Jan 20, when India launched a crackdown on the separatists.

India, alarmed by increased Muslim separatist activity in the northern state of Jammu-Kashmir, has stepped up border patrols to stop alleged infiltration of separatists from Pakistan.

Eighty Muslim militants have died in frontier violence in the past week.

Indian officials claim Kashmir militants regularly cross over to Pakistan through the border and return by the same route after receiving arms training in Pakistan.

Pakistan denies it is training or helping the militants, but says it supports the separatist movement, which it calls a fight for self-determination.

The Indian official, who spoke on condition of not being identified by name, said yesterday's fighting erupted when the militants fired at Indian border guards after crossing over from Pakistan.

Indian guards seized 22 AK-47 rifles, three light machine guns and 1,425 rounds of ammunition from the militants.

New Delhi reacted to the development by deploying tens of thousands of security forces to smother the separatist campaign, but the movement shows no sign of slowing.

Today, the government remained paralysed on the second day of a three-day strike by more than 150,000 Muslim state employees. The strike was called to protest alleged atrocities committed by security forces against civilians, government sources said.

Indian security forces have been accused of a wide range of human rights abuses in Kashmir, including the gang rape of a woman en route to her wedding ceremony and the burnings of nearly 300 homes in two villages near Srinagar.

Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Muntaz Hussain Rathore urged Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to ask India to honour its pledge and hold a plebiscite on Kashmir.

The Premier of Azad Kashmir said that as the Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh is in Moscow, the Soviet leadership should fully utilise this opportunity to ensure peace between Pakistan and India.

He said the situation in Kashmir was posing a severe danger to the regional and international peace. He charged the Indians were perpetrating worst atrocities on innocent Kashmiris.

Troops capture rebel village

200 Tamil rebels killed in two days fighting

COLOMBO, July 24, (AP). The Sri Lankan army has captured a key northern village that controls access to the rebel stronghold on the Jaffna peninsula, military officials said today.

Soldiers took over the village of Paranthan yesterday after fierce fighting in which at least 30 rebels were killed, said the officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Paranthan is just south of Elephant Pass, a causeway that links the Jaffna peninsula with the mainland. Four soldiers died in the attack, in which helicopter-borne troops and commandos were dropped behind rebel defences, the officials said.

The capture of Paranthan, 11 kilometres (7 miles) south of the causeway, could provide a launching pad for an attack on Jaffna, which the rebels have held since they repudiated a ceasefire with government forces on June 11.

The government holds four military installations on the peninsula, which have been under a rebel siege for more than a month.

At least 200 rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and 17 soldiers were killed during the fighting, which began on Sunday after guerrillas attacked a military patrol, the official said.

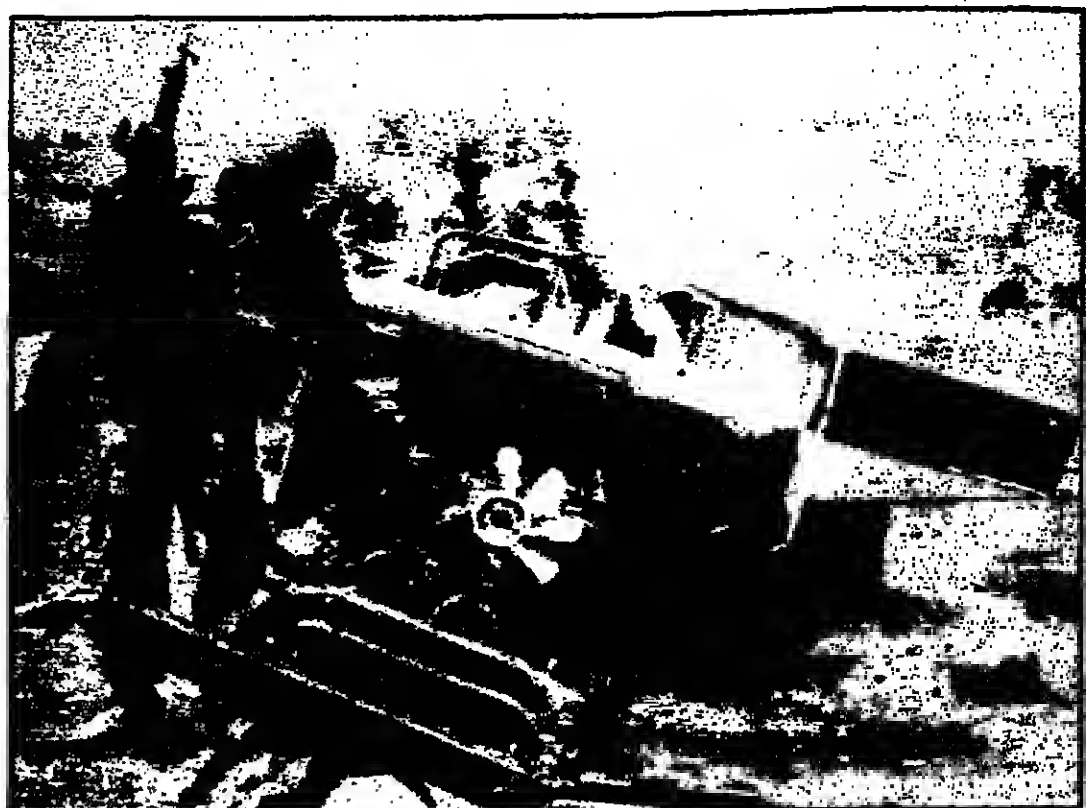
He said at least 60 rebels and 35 soldiers were wounded during the two days of fighting.

With the capture of Paranthan, security forces as of yesterday controlled all towns on the highway between Vavuniya, 135 miles (215 km) north of the capital, and Elephant Pass.

On Monday, Ranjan Wijeratne, the minister of Tamil Eelam, said security forces were still working to gain control of three areas in the eastern province.

"In the next week or so we should be able to finalize things in the eastern province," Wijeratne said.

The rebels blew up the Elephant Pass causeway last week in an effort to intensify their stranglehold on the



A police commando inspects a burnt-out jeep in Tirukovil town which was once in the hands of Tamil Tigers. (Reuters wirephoto)

peninsula, but military officials said it had been repaired.

The causeway is the only viable route for a large-scale crossing onto the peninsula, which hangs like a scorpion's tail from the northern end of the island.

At least 2,890 combatants have been killed in the fighting, the latest phase in the seven-year-old war for an independent Tamil homeland.

Many civilians also have died. The latest casualties included eight soldiers killed near the east coast port of Trincomalee in a rebel ambush yesterday, military officials said.

When the fighting began last month, the rebels held the Tamil-dominated areas on the north and east of the island. The army dislodged the rebels from most towns in the east, but the guerrillas retreated into jungles to fight what could be a protracted war.

In the north, the army has been unable to make much headway, because of the difficult access to Jaffna. Jaffna's citizens charged that the

Sri Lankan air force bombed civilians indiscriminately around the army outposts earlier in the campaign.

A PLO delegation led by deputy director of the PLO's political department Abdul Latif Abu Hajleh, on an official visit to Sri Lanka, said at a press briefing the purpose of the delegation's visit to Sri Lanka was to develop good relations between the two countries following the departure of the Israeli army.

Benazir accused of 'insulting' Islam

LAHORE, July 24, (AP). A small religious party has accused Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of "insulting" the Islamic religion, a crime punishable by death or life in prison.

The provincial Law Ministry is considering whether to charge Benazir, but a decision is not expected for several weeks.

The fundamentalist Jamiat-e-Islami, lodged two complaints against Benazir on Monday with the Lahore police.

Benazir's party spokesman has disputed the allegations, claiming they are politically motivated.

A police official, Raja Mohamud Farooq, said the complaints were sent to the provincial advocate-general who will decide whether a case can be brought against the prime minister.

The accusations against Benazir resulted from a statement she reportedly made last Friday to reporters denouncing an "insulting and desecrating" of the Muslim punishment of cutting off a person's hand for stealing.

The comment was published in a front-page article in the Urdu-language newspaper, daily Jang.

Benazir's spokesman refused to confirm or deny whether she made the statement.

The charges being considered were drafted under sections of Pakistan's criminal code that make it illegal to "deliberately and maliciously ... outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs."

Benazir's comments were reportedly made while fielding questions on a controversial bill that would make Islamic law the rule of the land in Pakistan.

Pakistanis risk prison

Having a drink is crime

ISLAMABAD, July 24, (Reuters). Risking prison, a whipping and maybe even eternal damnation, Pakistani businessman Farooq closes his eyes and gulps down a beer.

"In the old days, we had a choice; beer, Scotch whisky, Irish whiskey, and also bourbon," Farooq said wistfully.

Now, Farooq, who asked not to be further identified, is a criminal for having a drink.

"Since 1977, Islamic Pakistan has been officially alcohol-free, obeying the teachings of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) who said that drinking liquor was a mortal sin."

But there are still plenty of Pakistanis willing to risk earthly and unearthly punishment for the pleasures of an evening cocktail.

"There are some hard drinkers here," said one bureaucrat. "Some people keep large stockpiles."

The government forbade the sale of alcohol to all Muslims in Pakistan in 1977 and the ban was under the "Islamisation" process launched by the country's late military ruler, General Muhammad Zia ul-Haq.

From rough sailors' clubs in the southern port of Karachi to elegant diplomatic receptions in the federal capital of Islamabad to the north, the decree had its desired effect.

Bars that used to cater to both Pakistanis and foreigners closed their doors. Liquor stores shut down. And the country's distilleries were forced to limit sales to foreigners and the country's non-Muslim minorities.

Muslim Pakistanis caught drinking or carrying alcohol can now be fined or imprisoned.

They can also be given eighty lashes with an oil-soaked leather whip, which is the punishment suggested by Islam's holy book, the Holy Quran although local sources say this rarely happens.

One example of the turnaround in the fortunes of Pakistan's drinkers is the Murree brewery, home of the "most persecuted beer in the world."

Formerly located in an idyllic hill town famous as a pre-independence summer resort for the British Raj, the brewery once did a roaring business producing beer, whisky and gin for the country's finest watering holes.

The original brewery is now a ruin, torched by Islamic fundamentalists shortly after Pakistan's independence in 1947. Goats and mules meander through the rubble, which has become a temporary camp for families of Afghan refugees fleeing their war-torn homeland.

Murree, Pakistan's only brewery, now operates in the city of Rawalpindi. But Chief Executive M.P. Bhandara said the company's best days were over.

"We have a great past in front of us," Bhandara said, sitting in an office where Victorian memorabilia from the brewery's heyday shares wall space with plunging sales charts.

"Murree beer is the world's most persecuted beer," he said. "We sold about 180,000 hulk gallons of beer in 1989. We did ten times as much in 1945."

Bhandara, a non-Muslim whose family owns a controlling interest in Murree, said government regulation had hobbled his company and destroyed his market.

Murree workers, most of whom are Muslim and cannot legally drink their own product, must constantly negotiate with government customs and excise men who hold the keys to storage and production facilities.

The brewery cannot advertise and is subject to a host of rules and regulations designed to keep its products out of the hands of potential consumers. The province of Punjab, with 65 million inhabitants, has five liquor outlets.

Bhandara said the prohibition on alcohol has led to "tragic consequences," including Pakistan's high drug-addiction rate.

"Drugs have filled the vacuum," he said. "Youngsters in search of an innocent intoxicant have latched onto narcotics."

Pakistan has an estimated three million drug addicts, and the main jump in addiction has occurred over the past decade, according to the government statistics.

Bottles of foreign spirits flow into the country through the same smuggling routes that Pakistan's illicit exports, hashish, opium and other drugs, flow out.

Lovers of champagne, vermouth and brandy all have their contacts, ensuring them a steady, if not abundant, supply.

"It is not terribly difficult," said Farooq, rubbing his fingers together to signify the necessary pay-offs. Lacking the cash for imported brew, uppers in more remote areas make do with drugs or moonshine alcohol, a frequently poisonous concoction that sometimes leads to hospital and even death, according to local press reports.

For Pakistan's foreign residents, the government allowance of \$350 of alcohol purchases a year means even the simplest party is preceded by frantic bargaining among friends.

Diplomats, who because of their special status are given a more liberal allowance, often come to the rescue. And a few representatives of the more cash-strapped countries may have even turned the situation to their advantage.

'We are treated worse than dogs,' says an untouchable

NEW DELHI, July 24, (AP). Mohan Lal, 13 years old, said he was treated worse than a dog. He said he was a Hindu without a caste, an "untouchable."

When he returned home last month, Lal found that his family and other casteless people, or Harijans, still were pariahs in their village in Rajasthan state.

"We are treated worse than dogs," said Lal, 28, now a construction supervisor in New Delhi.

In the anonymity of a big city, Harijans can hide their background without anyone bothering them. Those who prosper can shed the stigma, as Lal is trying to do.

But in rural areas, untouchables live separately in Harijan bastis (colonies) and have no opportunities to break out of the tradition.

Mohandas K. Gandhi gave untouchables the Hindi name Harijans, or "children of God," in hopes it would provide them some respectability.

Untouchability was declared illegal after India gained independence from Britain in 1947, but the ancient tradition continues unchecked.

Even now, caste Hindus do not allow "outcasts" to wear shoes or new clothes, ride bicycles, use umbrellas, drink from the

main village well or hold their heads up while walking in the street.

Kalash Satyarthi, a social activist, said that "Harijans are beaten up for this, their women raped and men sometimes killed."

Caste Hindus even believe they are defiled if they touch a Harijan and that water becomes polluted if an untouchable walks past for two meals a day.

Dozens of other rules ostracize the 100 million people in this nation of 880 million who do not belong to any of the four Hindu castes, Brahmins, or priests; Kshatriyas, or soldiers, governors and landowners; Vaishyas, or tradespeople and menial workers.

Each caste has many subdivisions. Such beliefs took root about 2,500 years ago and remain widespread in Indian villages, where 75 per cent of the people live, according to sociologists.

Oppression of the Harijans is compounded by poverty and illiteracy. Most are agricultural labourers who are lucky to earn enough for two meals a day.

"There is a lack of awareness and co-ordination among the Harijans," said T.K. Gomen, a sociologist. "There is no mass consciousness. Harijans are a group by itself, but they are not a group for itself."

Sociologists and social activists say the

subjugation of Harijans is perpetuated by politicians because the untouchables provide useful "vote banks" during elections.

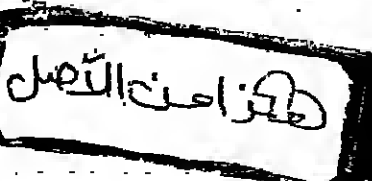
Politicians rarely talk about the problems of untouchables. Welfare Minister Ram Vilas Paswan, himself a Harijan, acknowledged in Parliament in May that he did not know how many Harijans victimised by violence had been aided by the government.

Paswan said authorities had been "asked to take appropriate action both to punish the perpetrators of crimes and to provide appropriate relief and rehabilitation to the victims."

No minister or welfare official has made a public statement about the lack of progress in solving the problem of untouchability, but many say privately it is endemic, and too big to be solved by the government.

The government says there were 14,269 crimes and other acts committed against Harijans in 1989, including 759 rapes and 479 murders.

A Harijan labourer named Dhanraj was humiliated to death April 5, allegedly by his publicised because Dhanraj was a resident of Prime Minister V.P. Singh's constituency of Patanchur.



Van Gogh suffered from Meniere's disease: experts

CHICAGO, July 24, (Reuters): Vincent van Gogh was neither a lunatic nor an epileptic but suffered from a common inner ear disorder that led him to cut off his ear and eventually kill himself, medical experts said.

They said the Dutch painter, who committed suicide 100 years ago this month at the age of 37, had Meniere's disease, characterised by a painful ringing or buzzing in the ear and vertigo — attacks of disabling dizziness.

The report from the Swedish Medical Centre in Colorado was based on an examination of medical records and Van Gogh's own letters and was published in this week's *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Meniere's disease has been described in France's medical literature during Van Gogh's lifetime but poor communications kept the information from reaching the provinces, the researchers said.

An examination of 796 of Van Gogh's personal letters "reveals a man constantly in control of his reason and suffering from severe repeated attacks of disabling vertigo, not a seizure disorder," the study said.

Van Gogh admitted himself to an asylum at St Remy, France, in 1889 where he was diagnosed as suffering from epilepsy. He killed himself on July 29, 1890.

"Van Gogh's handwritten statements describing his attacks and his illness are compelling evidence for a diagnosis of Meniere's disease and not epilepsy," said the study.

"His voluntary admission to the asylum at St Remy hoping to find help for his attacks of vertigo that everyone else thought was a form of epilepsy and his rational behaviour at the asylum as well as before and after attacks as described in his voluminous correspondence should forever banish the notion that he was an epileptic or 'mad'," the report said.

I. Kaufman Arenberg, the principal author of the study, became interested in the subject while a medical student, an aide told Reuters. During an art history class he recognised that Van Gogh's symptoms were similar to those of an acquaintance who had been diagnosed with Meniere's disease, the aide said.

When Van Gogh cut off part of his left ear and sent it to a prostitute two days before Christmas in 1888 he was "assailed by auditory hallucinations," the physician who attended him reported, the study said.

The incident suggests that the tinnitus or ringing in the ear characteristic of Meniere's "had become intolerable and that he felt he might alleviate the 'auditory hallucinations' by eliminating their source," the study said.

Other victims of the disease have been known to sever their ears or poke holes in them with ice picks to end the noise, the study said.

Designers' tastes revealed

From sumptuous gowns to Persian-rug fantasies

PARIS, July 24, (AP): From Dior's fabulous gowns in lame, satin, lace and taffeta to Scherrer's Persian-rug fantasies, yesterday's couture shows were more revealing about designers' taste than what next fall's fashion in the streets will be.

But the clothes do show tendencies women can dream about an even emulate, if they are handy with a needle.

Ferre
Gianfranco Ferre, starting his second year as Dior's couturier, got a big hand for turning out a gorgeous line of elegant suits and sumptuous evening gowns. The talented Italian seems to have found a fine cruising speed for himself as creator for this grand old house after a somewhat shaky start last year.

He concentrated on a palette of blues — indigo, violet, slate, midnight — with some lively shades of ruby, cerise or deep coral thrown in. The day wear glamorously skimmed the body in slim lines, but skirts were somewhat longer than the crotch-high models being seen nearly everywhere else.

There was a lot of opulence here even in daytime wear, with an all-line coat ornamented with fancy braid buttons, a low-keyed dress and coat belted firmly with big bands of taffeta.

Other cover-ups were Ferre's invention for Dior's fur collection, dyed sable lined with sparkly lace. It made one want to be very rich indeed — and have a good party to show off at.

Scherrer
Jean-Louis Scherrer didn't skimp on wealthy looks either. Most of the audience seemed to love his Persian-carpet styles, although the feathered evening wear was greeted sceptically.

There was lots of leg showing here in these minis under their nicely-fitted jackets with big lapels sometimes worn under soft, big bodied burnoose-style coats — in autumn colours like burnt orange, terra-cotta, ochre, gold with some prune and burnished reds thrown in.

Lots of shiny folklore prints cropped up in luscious lame evening wear, often short but also good in very tight sexy décolletés over full long skirts. And Scherrer played around with variations of the "smoking" or tuxedo — one with nothing underneath but a lacy slip of a dress.

Cardin
Pierre Cardin celebrated his forty years in couture, thirty years in ready-to-wear, twenty years in theatre and ten years in the Maxim's restaurant business with a couture show featuring more of the same Cardin favours.

There were the terrific little coats — dozens of them, marked by the Cardin structured approach with high funnel collars, accordion-pleated sleeves, petal sleeves, pointed panel fronts in a rainbow of colours, plaids and tweeds.

He also did a series of long mid-calf outfits, which may be useful for those who would rather waver up. But in this series of leggy shows they tend to look rather stuffy grande dame.

But there was as usual lots of invention and fun in late-day wear, with a few of the stand-out hoola-hoola skirts, bright dresses garnished with enormous sunflowers and gala confessions of stiffened flounces for a puffy effect.

Balmain
Erik Mortensen at Balmain brought out some interesting textured knits in soft autumn colours along with a few of his shorts outfits, and slightly weird evening wear like the sparkly gold and silver-embroidered clinging black catsuit.

More glamorous was the silk sheath slashed in snaky patterns to reveal flesh-coloured chiffon, but not flesh underneath.

And he topped some lean leather jumpsuits with intriguing big coats with colourful oversized stitched patchwork effects all over them.

Mori
Another dream world for rich fashion devotees was turned out by Hanae Mori. The Japanese couturiere, who won the Legion of Honour last year, also is the only Japanese officially accepted as a member of the French haute couture group, the Chambre Syndicale.

At her show, Mori concentrated on exquisite drapes and flowers as a theme for her dressier clothes. Her rose-fastened satin gowns with draping and sparkling embroidery were luscious for debutantes or women a bit older.

Mori did some wonderful short suits in smooth wools, easily-fitted with flaring long puffed jackets, and luxuriant short cashmere or smooth-wool capes in colours raspberry or mustard.

But her show-stoppers were the slithery sequined gowns embroidered to look like Van Gogh paintings, with all the swirls and cypresses right out of the Arles masterpieces.

New talent
Among the sprouting new talent, Dutch-born Paul B. Elsen, 27, gave a promising offering of truly couture-finished styles. He reportedly sewed all 32 garments himself.

His long fitted redingote-style jackets with their jaunty riders' top hats were well made, as were some of the terrific pants suits, often with an interesting bolero flared with sharp pleats at the back.

To amuse the jaded fashion crowd and launch a new watch collection called "Mademoiselle," the Chanel company is opening up the Chanel Suite at the Ritz for the week. The rooms are reconstituted exactly as when Coco Chanel lived there before World War II.

The Ted Lapidus fashion house, whose founder made his name in the swinging 1960s, has been bought by a French financial holding company with a taste for luxury.



Ivana Trump, wife of the beleaguered American billionaire Donald Trump, is seen seated at the front row at Christian Dior's fall/winter haute couture fashion show in Paris on Sunday. (Reuters wirephoto)



A Christian Dior model presents a violet and blue toned cock feather during the autumn/winter 1990-91 High Fashion collection on Monday. (Reuters wirephoto)



At the end of Balmain's fall/winter haute couture collection on Sunday, Swedish designer Mortensen kisses one of the models wearing a creation resembling a nun's habit. (Reuters wirephoto)

SARATOGA SPRINGS, New York: Dennis Wahlberg wasn't seriously hurt when he fell through a stage trapdoor. But the singing star of *New Kids on the Block* was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit to keep his admiring fans away.

More than 100 fans gathered Monday outside Saratoga Hospital where the 20-year-old Wahlberg was listed as stable. He was being held in intensive care for security reasons, said hospital spokeswoman Helen Edelman.

Wahlberg suffered bruises to his chest and cuts to his arms and lower lip when he crashed through an unsaluted trap door late in Sunday night's concert at the Saratoga Raceway, said Skip Carlson, Raceway spokesman.

"I was told the door just gave way and he went down through it," he said. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: It's a boy for actress Kelly LeBrock and her actor-husband Steven Seagal.

Domestic San Rocco Seagal weighed 7 pounds (3 kilograms) when he was born last Thursday at Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre, said Paul Bloch, publicist for the couple.

"Mother and child are in excellent health," Bloch said Monday. The couple and their newborn have returned to their home near Santa Barbara, he said.

The Seagals also have a 3-year-old daughter, Amalizia. Miss LeBrock may be best known for her role in the movie "Woman in Red." Seagal won acclaim for his role in the film "Above the Law." (AP)

OSLO, Norway: A Norwegian soldier swam for 50 hours in an Arctic Fjord this past weekend in a bet with a buddy who rode a bicycle for 78 hours straight, a report said Monday.

Per Christian Solberg, a 24-year-old marine, swam 60 kilometres (37 miles) in north Norway's Romsund Fjord, completing the non-stop Marathon Sunday evening, reported Oslo's *Vendags Gang* newspaper.

He wore a wet suit and scuba diving flippers.

The other soldier, who was not named in the report, had fulfilled their gentlemen's bet by bicycling more than 1,000 kilometres (620 miles) from Ramsund to Oslo in 78 hours. (AP)

BATON ROUGE, Louisiana: One works with an electric guitar, the other with an acoustic, but brothers Tim and Travis Spassans are tops in their fields.

They won first place in both divisions of the guitar throwing contest sponsored by a Baton Rouge music store.

"We practiced throwing with a tyre jack for the last two days," Tim said. (AP)

WASHINGTON, July 24, (Reuters): US scientists want to grow salads in space — and maybe under the sea, in California's Death Valley or in your apartment closet.

The greens are growing now in a refrigerator-sized mirrored box in California, but ultimately the so-called salad machine is destined for Space Station Freedom, where astronauts will be able to harvest their own vegetables every two days.

"It is definitely the next generation of life support equipment, Mark Kliss, who manages the salad project for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), said in a

'I didn't mean to shoot him'

Officer testifies in Brando case

LOS ANGELES, July 24, (Reuters): Christian Brando, the son of actor Marlon Brando, told a police officer he shot his half-sister's boyfriend during an argument but that the shooting was an accident, the officer testified yesterday.

Patrolman Steve Cunningham said the younger Brando's first words were, "I didn't mean to shoot him."

Brando, 32, is charged with murdering 26-year-old Tahitian Dag Drollet at his father's Hollywood mansion on March 16.

Christian's 20-year-old half-sister Cheyenne gave birth to Drollet's child on June 30, linking the two families.

The defence said at yesterday's hearing Cheyenne would not be able to give evidence because she was in hospital in Tahiti where she was under sedation for mental and physical problems.

Deputy District Attorney Steven Barshop had hoped to use Cheyenne as his star witness against Christian, but defence lawyer Robert Shapiro read a cablegram from the US consul in Tahiti which said she was "mentally and physically unable to travel."

As the court drama unfolded, it was closely watched by Marlon Brando, who sat in the front row of the spectators' gallery in a light grey, pin-striped suit with Cheyenne's brother Miko.

Christian Brando, an unemployed welder and part-time actor, sat next to his lawyer with his back to his father. The only time their eyes met was when he was brought into the courtroom from the adjacent holding cells.

The prosecution suffered a second major setback at the preliminary hearing when the judge refused to admit as evidence a key one-hour tape-recorded confession made to a detective by Christian Brando.

BEVERLY HILLS, California: Hollywood actress Zsa Zsa Gabor says the prosecutor who successfully pressed charges against her for slapping a Beverly Hills cop confessed illegally to private with the trial judge.

The complaint against deputy district attorney Ellen Fox was under investigation by the state bar, said spokeswoman Susan Scott in San Francisco. (AP)



Actor Marlon Brando and his son Miko sit in L.A. County Criminal Court, during a preliminary hearing for his son Christian on Monday. Christian is accused in the murder of Dag Drollet, boyfriend of his sister Cheyenne. (Reuters wirephoto)

Judge Larry Fidler barred the confession because Detective Steven Osti had failed to advise Brando fully of his constitutional rights before questioning him.

The judge said Osti had told Brando he had the right to remain silent, that anything he said could be used against him in a court of law and that he had the right to have a lawyer present during questioning. But Osti

failed to inform Brando that if he could not afford a lawyer one would be appointed for him, the judge said.

Also present at the hearing, which will decide if Brando has a case to answer at a full trial, were Drollet's father, Jacques Drollet, and his mother, Lizette Lecail, who sat holding the hand of the dead man's four-year-old daughter, Tarita, whom he had had by a previous girlfriend.

MONTEREY, California: Two small Soviet research submarines are expected to explore a deep underwater canyon off the California coast later this year, one of the US organisers of the expedition said on Monday.

Under the visit organised by the US Geological Survey, the Soviet scientists will spend about a week diving into the Monterey Canyon, about 100 miles (160 km) south of San Francisco. (Reuters)

RICHLAND HILLS, Texas: When police got the call about a "big snake" frightening residents of this Texas neighbourhood, they didn't really believe it — until they saw the giant python.

But that indeed was the stranger who showed up at dinner time at the home of Jane Kliff, she said. She said her 4-year-old daughter spotted the snake at their front door Sunday evening, while she was cooking sausage. (AP)

Salads in space and perhaps in your apartment closet too!

WASHINGTON, July 24, (Reuters): US scientists want to grow salads in space — and maybe under the sea, in California's Death Valley or in your apartment closet.

The greens are growing now in a refrigerator-sized mirrored box in California, but ultimately the so-called salad machine is destined for Space Station Freedom, where astronauts will be able to harvest their own vegetables every two days.

"It is definitely the next generation of life support equipment, Mark Kliss, who manages the salad project for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), said in a

telephone interview. "It certainly has potential applications on Earth."

Salad machines could produce fresh vegetables in deserts like Death Valley, on submarines, in the closets of big-city flats or in the Arctic, Kliss said.

Kliss's device, developed at the Ames Research Centre south of San Francisco, is a big step forward from space cuisine.

For years, astronauts groused about the quality of food they were given on space flights, including such questionable delights as pulverised pot roast in a plastic tube and granulated,

freeze-dried ice cream. Leaf lettuce, carrots, radishes, onions, sprouts, tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers would be good candidates for the machine because they share similar requirements for light, humidity, temperature and nutrients.

The only fuel required would be about one kilowatt of electricity, Kliss said.

The plants would provide oxygen and water in addition to food and would absorb carbon dioxide — key functions in the confines of a long space mission.

Tending the crops would also give the astronauts 15 to 20 minutes of diversion a day as a relief from the hutton-pushing and scientific monitoring of a long-duration mission, Kliss said.

But farming in microgravity is a bit different from gardening on Earth, he noted.

The salad machine is part of NASA's drive toward making the space station and subsequent long missions to the Moon and Mars self-sustaining, instead of having to bring all supplies from Earth and return all wastes after missions are completed.

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Royal bread gives new meaning to upper crust

LONDON, July 24, (AP): The ultimate upper-crust is now on sale, an organic bread named after Prince Charles' Highgrove estate and containing wheat organically grown at his home farm.

The Tesco supermarket chain began selling wholemeal Highgrove for 59 pence (\$1.07) a loaf yesterday, as part of a 12-week trial at 23 Tesco stores in the southeast of England.

The bread is made from wheat grown without pesticides at Prince Charles' home farm at Highgrove, 160 kilometres (100 miles) west of London, as

well as Canadian organic wheat.

The prince agreed to the product to promote organic farming. Eighteen months ago he denounced what he called the excessive use of chemicals in modern agriculture, and in 1985, he partly converted home farm to organic farming methods.

The secretary of the prince's Duchy of Cornwall, David Landale, said Prince Charles regarded the loaf as "an ideal opportunity to try to show that organic farming can produce financially profitable, good quality crops."



Spanish Ambassador to Cuba Antonio Sarrano de Haro refuses to talk to reporters as he arrives in Madrid on Monday, after being recalled by the Spanish government. A total of 18 Cubans have sought refuge in the Spanish embassy in Havana, causing the worst crisis between Spain and Cuba in recent years. (Reuters wirephoto)

3 more Cubans seek asylum

HAVANA, July 24. (Reuters): Three Cubans seeking to leave the country have sought refuge at the Swiss embassy in Havana, bringing to 25 the number of Cubans sheltering at foreign embassies to a rash of asylum bids that has embarrassed Cuba's communist government.

Cuba has said it will not allow any of the asylum seekers at foreign embassies to leave the country, adding they must either surrender unconditionally or stay there forever.

Swiss diplomats in Havana said yesterday the three men entered the embassy in the city's Miramar diplomatic district on Sunday afternoon.

They asked for Swiss government protection to be able to leave the country, the diplomats added.

A Swiss Foreign Ministry statement released in Bern said the three had entered the embassy "despite strong military and police protection from the local authorities."

A ministry spokeswoman said the three would be allowed to stay only until the embassy received assurances from the Cuban authorities that their lives were not in danger.

Cuban police on Saturday sealed off the Spanish, Canadian and West German embassies and the Italian ambassador's residence, where four Cubans were sheltering.

In Washington, the State Department said yesterday it was displeased with the barricade erected by Cuban police around three sides of the US interests Section in Havana.

The barrier — a four-and-a-half-foot (1.5 metre) fence — is more extensive than those usually erected by authorities at the start of the annual Revolution Carnival, spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said.

"Obviously, the United States government does not like it," she told reporters.

There were 18 Cubans at the Spanish embassy, which yesterday doubled its security by deploying five more members of an elite Spanish police unit as Madrid and Havana stepped up efforts to defuse a week-old row over the asylum seekers.

Rebels kill 20 militiamen in Peruvian Andes

HUARAZ, Peru, July 24. (AP): Maoist Shining Path guerrillas killed 20 militiamen in attacks on two Andean towns last week, police said yesterday.

There were no reports of rebel casualties in the fighting, police said. The clashes took place July 17 in the towns of Jaupin and Chichipon, near the Marañon river, 330 kilometres (210 miles) north of Lima.

Police did not arrive in the isolated towns until July 20. The bodies of the militiamen had been left unburied and were badly decomposed, according to police.

Police gave the following description of the attacks.

The 30-odd rebels killed 17 of the militiamen in a long firefight in Jaupin, after earlier killing three soldiers in an attack on Chichipon.

The rebels were armed with assault rifles and machine guns while the militiamen had a few old rifles but were armed mainly with sticks and machetes.

Drug traffickers are active in the area around Chichipon and Jaupin, police said.

Planaltina valley of the mystifying

Home of religious sects

PLANALTINA, Brazil, July 24. (Reuters): "Welcome to the Valley of the Dawn," smiled Valdemar Adjunto Japuci gesturing towards a straggling collection of single-storey huts laid out across a plateau of bleached scrubland.

At first sight an ordinary rural town, the community of 3,500 mostly illiterate former peasants on the edge of Planaltina village is the home of one of Brazil's strangest religious sects.

Best known abroad for its striking Modern Movement architecture, Brazil's futuristic capital Brasilia, about half an hour's drive away, has attracted dozens of offbeat religious cults during its 30-year life.

The valley is among the most mystifying. Blending Christianity, African paganism, Karma theory, science fiction and Amerindian myth, the Valley of the Dawn claims 90,000 believers in more than 30 temples across Brazil but the Planaltina community is where it began.

"Our founding figure was Aunt Neiva," Valdemar explained, pointing to a picture of a huxum, heavily-made up woman starting out from a poster on one of the buildings. "She began to hear the spirits talking to her."

Neiva's second husband Mario Sassi, sitting behind a desk in a small dusty office, took up the story.

"Back in 1959 Neiva was an ordinary woman, a 33-year-old widow with four children," he explained.

"But then she began to experience strange, paranormal phenomena, extra-sensory perceptions which neither science nor local religion could explain."

The basis of Neiva's experience, he continued, was direct communication with a spirit called Seta Branca (White Arrow).

Guided by Seta Branca, whom the valley believes is a reincarnation of St Francis of Assisi, she laid down the basic doctrine of the community and ran it until an untimely death from chronic respiratory disease on November 16, 1985.

"But now our work is beginning," Sassi said. "You must go down to the temple and witness it for yourself."

The entrance to the valley's temple is guarded by a large yellow six-pointed star on a concrete slab with an arrow pointing down into an inscription which reads:

"Sons! The man who tries to escape from his Karmic destiny or his transcendental vows will be devoured or will be lost like a bird trying to fly in the darkness of the night — Seta Branca."

Inside, the temple explodes into a primitive confusion of signs, symbols, and figures in five colours.

Photographs of Aunt Neiva hang from the ceiling, along with a Star of David with an illuminated picture of Jesus Christ in the centre of it.

"Our religion is basically a Christian one but we work through mediums as well," Valdemar said.

As he spoke, a procession of men and women in black and white costumes filed into the temple and started to take their seats around a white plastic covered table.

The back of their robes showed an image of a cross with a white robe draped over it. "Christians use the image of Christ on the cross but our Christ is somewhere else," explained Valdemar.

Sassi said the community's main aim was to instruct new mediums and to provide faith healing for people who had gone astray in the outside world.

Cubans preparing for worst of times

Additional belt tightening

HAVANA, July 24. (AP): In some areas of Cuba, oxen have been reintroduced to replace gas-guzzling tractors. In Havana, office workers are being asked now and then to do without air conditioning. The fuel quotas at most state enterprises have been cut back 10 per cent.

And this could be only the beginning. Cubans, taking note of the upheaval in Eastern Europe, are preparing for the worst of times.

For years, Cuba has suffered from a US trade and financial embargo. Now, Cubans are being warned at town meetings that additional belt tightening may be around the corner if Soviet oil supplies, averaging about 13 million tons annually, are cut off and there is no money to tap alternate sources.

The Soviets already have slowed oil deliveries to Cuba. President Fidel Castro alluded to the problem in a speech last month.

"Stubborn realities are there. We constantly have to think in terms of less and less fuel. We have to tell the truth."

An added concern is that Soviet officials have spoken publicly about

the possibility of a phased reduction of overall Soviet economic assistance to Cuba, a windfall estimated by some at \$4 billion each year.

US President George Bush has been appealing to the Soviets to cut Castro off. The United States resists providing direct aid to the troubled Soviet economy as long as Moscow sends billions of rubles to Cuba.

"Special period to peacetime" is the euphemism for the draconian measures Castro has in mind in the event Cuba has to go it alone.

To show that he means business, dress rehearsals are being held around the island to give Cubans a taste of what may lie ahead.

Oxen are being tried out on farms in western Cuba.

Military recruits are being asked to extend their tours of duty by two months to help the armed services become self-sufficient in food.

Under the most extreme austerity measures, thousands could be thrown out of work in Havana, partly because a suspension of most bus service would make it impossible for many to commute.



President confers

Argentina President Carlos Menem confers with Maria Julia Alsogaray during an official ceremony at the Casa Rosada, (government house) in August 1989. The Paronist leader, 60, denied on Monday that he was having an affair with Alsogaray, president of the ENTal telephone company. Alsogaray, 47, posed as la Marilyn Monroe for a local magazine which ran a pictorial under the headline 'Maria Julia and her romance with the president'.

Fraud, embezzlement in Venezuela, who do you call: publishers of Corruption Dictionary

CARACAS, Venezuela, July 24. (AP): The credit union is stealing your money, bureaucrats are pocketing your taxes and a dozen officials are extorting kickbacks from your business.

What's an honest Venezuelan to do? He can go to court, and pay another bribe, or shoot the guilty party and risk being shot in return.

If he knows it's hopeless, but doesn't want to give up in silence, he can call the publishers of the corruption dictionary.

The new book, issued by Caracas newspaper publisher Carlos Capriles, documents 68 of the most celebrated corruption cases from 1959 through 1979, the first 20 years

of Venezuelan democracy. Readers are invited to call in with tales for the next edition, which will bring the record up to the present.

Telling a story of corruption might be expensive, since the whistleblower often is the first to be punished, but at least the Capriles staff offers a sympathetic ear.

In the corruption dictionary are tales of building contracts awarded by public officials to friends who did not even own construction companies, and of a single building contract let to 42 different people. The "contractor" in one deal allegedly took off for Mexico with a \$325,000 advance.

Readers learn of credit union directors who raided workers' accounts to buy houses and cars for themselves.

What of the immigration office? It has long been accused of extorting bribes for residency visas, the size depending on nationality. A Chinese had to pay \$5,000, for example, but a Portuguese could get in for \$1,600.

It is taken for granted in Venezuela that the political party in power will finance its campaigns with state funds.

The Corruption Dictionary is 309 pages long, compiled from newspapers, court reports and interviews. Current events indicate there will be plenty of material for volume II.

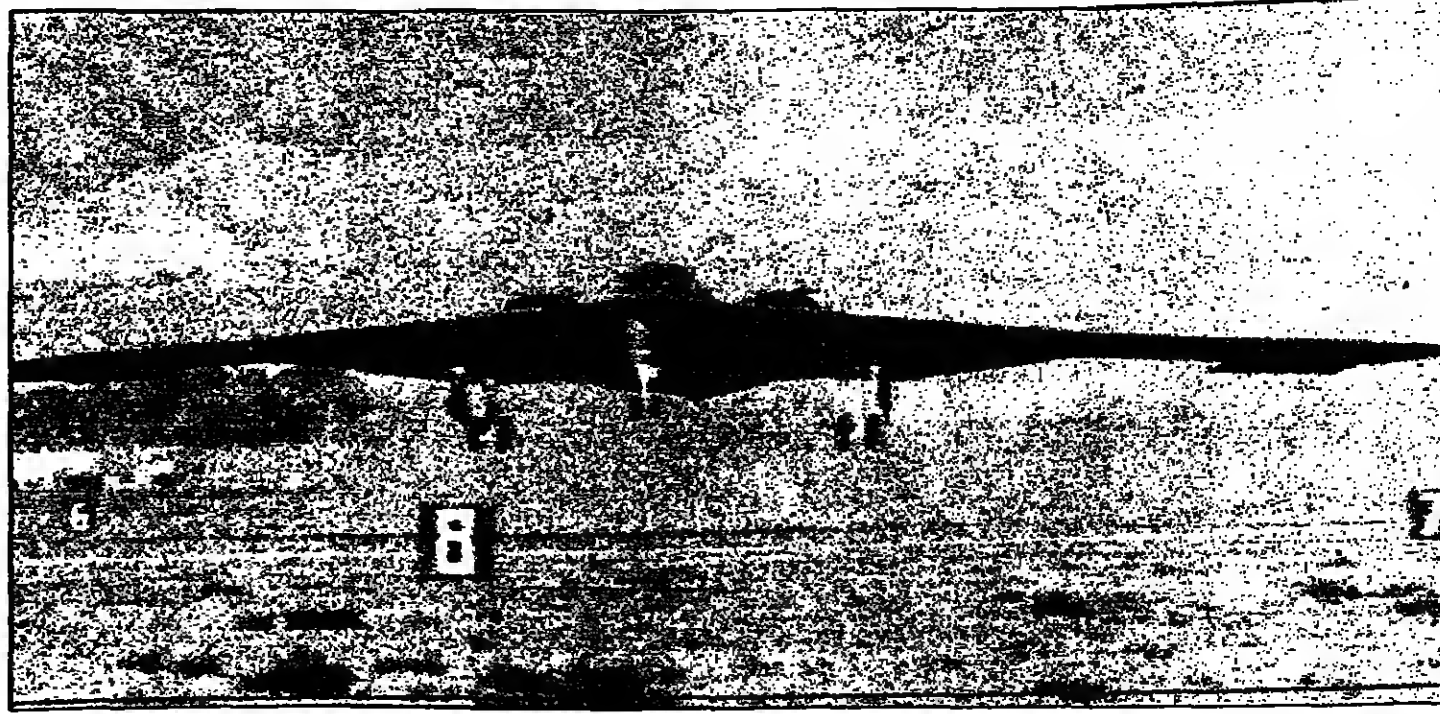
In 17 months of the administration of President Carlos Andres Perez, stories of corruption have turned up

frequently on front pages. There was the case of the theft and misuse of \$6 billion in government export subsidies.

Vice Transportation Minister Jose Luis Bruzual stepped into his boss' job yesterday three days after Minister Augusto Faria Viso quit to face corruption charges.

Bruzual was sworn in as acting minister of transportation and communications in Miraflores Palace by Perez.

Faria Viso resigned last Friday, after two congressmen of his own Accion Democratica Party accused him of soliciting a \$3.5 million kickback in exchange for awarding \$100 million communications contracts to the French company Thomson. (AP)



Kill Stealth

Les Aspin, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, recommended that Congress kill all production funding for B-2 'Stealth' bomber. Fifteen B-2 bombers are in various stages of production. Picture shows a Stealth B-2 bomber taking off. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bush nominates Souter

May succeed Brennan as Supreme Court judge

WASHINGTON, July 24. (AP): President George Bush said yesterday he would nominate federal appeals court judge David H. Souter to the Supreme Court. Bush said he acted without questioning Souter on abortion or other delicate judicial issues.

If confirmed by a majority of the senate, Souter, a 50-year-old bachelor, would succeed William J. Brennan, who retired last Friday.

Bush's quick decision to ask Washington by surprise and shifted the nation's attention to the Senate Judiciary Committee, which is certain to examine Souter's record and explore his views on abortion and other Americans have been alive.

Liberals are concerned about the court because under Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist's leadership, its drift toward conservatism over the past two decades has accelerated in the past three years.

Conservatives bopped Bush would give them a nominee who would overthrow the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe-v-Wade decision that legalised abortion.

Most legal experts believe the court is becoming more conservative and that some past liberal victories may be converted into Conservative rulings.

Liberals and Conservatives differ on abortion rights, prayer in public schools, the interpretation of civil rights and many other issues.

Bush tried to reassure Americans that his selection was not geared to any political issue. "It is not appropriate ... to use any litmus test," Bush said.

Souter has been on the federal appeals court for such a long period of time he has not yet penned an opinion.

Gordon Tufany, like Souter a former New Hampshire attorney general, said it is hard to classify Souter's judicial philosophy.

"Whether it's liberal or conservative, it's not the issue in his mind. The issue in his mind is what was intended in the constitution," Tufany said.

The nomination appeared to underscore the influence exercised by John Sununu, Bush's chief of staff, who as governor of New Hampshire had put Souter on that state's Supreme Court in 1983. Like Bush, Sununu is an outspoken opponent of abortion.

But Andrew Card, Sununu's deputy, said Sununu did not suggest Souter to Bush.

At a news conference, a questioner noted that Bush and Sununu both have widely known views against abortion.

Britain, Spain to co-ordinate on drugs

Mohawks demand met

MADRID, July 24. (Reuters): Britain and Spain agreed yesterday to co-ordinate action against drug smuggling around the British colony of Gibraltar, the Spanish Interior Ministry said.

"It said they agreed during a meeting in Madrid to set up joint bodies to co-ordinate action against drug smuggling centred on the disputed colony, a problem which Spain has called a 'cancerous tumour' on its south coast."

Barry Price, head of Britain's National Drugs Intelligence Unit, Gibraltar police chief Joe Campa, Scotland Yard detectives, the director-general of Spain's Investigative Police, Pedro Nicolas, Spanish diplomats and Colonel Arsenio Ayuso of the Civil Guard took part in the talks.

Spain, Britain and Gibraltar disagree on how the Rock figures in drug trafficking.

The Spaniards told the British that traffickers based in Gibraltar used high-speed launches to ship drugs, especially hashish, from North Africa and drop it off on Spanish beaches.

When spotted by Spanish customs boats they ditch the drugs in the sea and speed into Gibraltar out of reach of the Spanish authorities, the officials said.

They repeated Spain's contention that Gibraltar had become a money-laundering centre for profits of drug-smuggling and other crimes — a charge which Gibraltar officials deny.

Spain, which has a long-standing claim to the colony ceded to Britain under the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, has asked it to tighten its banking controls and anti-drug policing. British officials, however, say Gibraltar already has tougher financial legislation and anti-drug smuggling laws than Spain.

Bankers in Gibraltar fear that Spain's insistence that the colony is a money-laundering centre is damaging its reputation as a budding offshore financial centre.

Quebec offers to resume talks

Mohawks demand met

OKA, Quebec, July 24. (AP): Canada's Quebec province offered yesterday to resume talks with Oka Mohawks regarding a violent dispute over a golf course addition planned on land claimed as ancestral territory.

The provincial government also agreed that observers from human rights organisations could attend.

John Ciacia, Quebec's native affairs minister, said the province wants the talks held away from the barricades, where Indians and police have faced each other for nearly two weeks. A shootout July 11 resulted in the death of a Quebec police officer.

The Red Cross, one of the few groups allowed beyond the barricades by police, would be permitted to continue providing food and supplies, according to a Quebec statement. That meets another Mohawk demand for free movement of food and medicine.

Ciacia's proposals were seen by some Mohawks as a "step in the right direction," said Peter Diome, spokesman for the Mohawk nation office in Kahnawake.

"At least they are now making an effort to reopen the lines of communication that they previously closed."

But Diome said progress will be limited until the federal government gets involved.

"We're still talking about nation-to-nation and where is the federal government?" he asked.

Ciacia said in an interview he wants talks held outside the barricades "not for security reasons but to create an atmos-

phere of calm We must accept that the only way to resolve this is through peaceful negotiations. There is no question of armed violence."

In Ottawa, a senior Indian affairs official told reporters yesterday a "gang of criminals" have taken over negotiations in Oka, located west of Montreal.

The federal official, who spoke at an off-the-record briefing, said a radical element in the Mohawk community "has hijacked the land claims negotiations and is holding the Mohawk community in a state of armed insurrection."

He was talking about reports that the Militant Warrior Society is controlling events at Oka.

Mohawks from nearby Kahnawake reserve have blockaded the Mercier bridge to Montreal in support of the Oka Mohawks.

Some commuters have to spend an extra two hours in travel daily, and an anti-Indian backlash has developed.

Ciacia wants only Mohawk representatives from Kahnawake and Kahnasetake involved in new negotiations. Kahnasetake is the Mohawk settlement at Oka.

This would exclude Militant Warriors from the Akwesasne reserve near Cornwall, Ontario, who moved into Oka to join the others.

Indians in Canada's western-most British Columbia province also erected barricades in sympathy and to press their own claims.

Illegal aliens entering US up

BUFFALO, New York, July 24. (AP): In the dark of night, smugglers lead illegal immigrants over the spidery underside of a railroad bridge hundreds of feet above the raging Niagara River that separates the United States and Canada.

Others paddle their clients across the river in flimsy rubber rafts and then drive them hundreds of miles so they can vanish anonymously into the teeming city.

Upscale aliens who can pay \$20,000 or more ride in chartered planes and boats. But the less well-heeled are packed like luggage into the trunks of cars or secret compartments, not much larger than beds, in the backs of tractor-trailers.

In the desert southwest, these smugglers are called "coyotes," ruthless operators notorious for the callousness with which they treat their customers.

Along the US-Canadian border, they are just as ruthless and they are becoming one of the biggest problems of the US Immigration and Naturalisation Service.

Entry

"We obviously don't have the hordes of people that you have in Mexico," says John J. Ingham, INS District Director in Buffalo.

"Canadians enjoy a high standard of living that's comparable with the United States, so we don't have Canadians coming across the border in the same way Mexicans seek entry."

What Ingham and his colleagues do have is a stream of refugees from around the globe, who enter Canada on tourist visas — real or faked — and then pay smugglers thousands of dollars to be ferried across the world's longest unfortified border.

That stream appears to be swelling at a rapid rate. By one measure — seizures of vehicles used in smuggling attempts — alien-smuggling into New York State alone has risen 150 per cent since 1985. In 1985, 220 vehicles were seized. In 1989 the number was 560 and the projected figure for 1990 is more than 700.

While plans along the Mexican border typically wade the Rio Grande or cross the desert far from border stations, INS officials suspect that most illegal aliens coming in from Canada use established ports of entry.

Although much of the US-Canadian border is unfenced, it is guarded by hidden cameras and suspicious natives who are quick to report strangers to the authorities, Ingham says. At official border crossings, however, it is all too easy for aliens to blend in with the crowds.

Backups

"It's easier to cross the bridges in some ways because of the volumes of traffic," Ingham says. "With the backups we're having because of the large number of shoppers coming in, everyone knows we can't open every trunk."

Jerry Maffre, a spokesman for Employment and Immigration Canada, says his agency, the Canadian equivalent of the INS, does "have a concern about people who come here for the sole purpose of trying to arrange a southbound smuggler."

However, Canadian immigration officials can take no action against them if they have entered Canada legally, Maffre said in a telephone interview from Ottawa.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police has jurisdiction over attempts to smuggle aliens into the United States, Maffre said. RCMP officials did not return several telephone calls seeking comment.

A husband and wife charged with heading separate smuggling rings are typical of the operators who deal in human lives, INS officials say.

The wife, Cheng Chui-Ping, pleaded guilty on July 27 to conspiring to transport aliens illegally, admitting that she paid an undercover Canadian police agent \$340 to transport three aliens, including a pregnant woman, from the Toronto airport to the United States in March 1989.

Abortion

In a written statement submitted to US District Judge Richard J. Arcara, Ms Cheng said the pregnant woman was her cousin, Tsui Kim Wong, and a woman who made the trip to Toronto with her was her best friend's daughter.

However, government agents have said the pregnant woman was actually Wang Sai Zhen, who fled China with her husband, and nephew so she would not be forced to undergo an abortion under China's bars family-planning laws.

Swiss, Italians investigating allegations made by ex-operatives

CIA denies reported ties to Italy terror, Palme killing

WASHINGTON, July 24, (Reuters): The US Central Intelligence Agency yesterday denied involvement in Italian terrorism in the 1970s and the 1986 assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olaf Palme, as investigations of allegations of its complicity got under way in Sweden and Italy.

"The allegations ... regarding involvement in terrorist activities in Italy or the Palme assassination are absolute nonsense," CIA spokesman Peter Earnest said in a telephone

call to Reuters.

The CIA denied claims made by an Oregon businessman named Dick Brenneke, who said on Italian state television this month that the US spy agency backed the P-2 Masonic Lodge in committing terrorist acts in Italy.

The television reports said another purported ex-CIA operative maintained P-2 got CIA support for the Palme assassination.

"The agency flatly denies that Mr Brenneke was ever an agent for the CIA or had any

association with the CIA," Earnest said. "We repeat this public denial because of the outrageous nature of his claims."

The CIA generally does not comment on any claims of affiliation with the spy agency, but a CIA source said the agency felt it had been hurt by Brenneke before.

Brenneke has claimed in the past that he worked for the CIA in the 1970s and was a CIA contract agent in the 1980s, saying he

flew secret missions to Europe and brokered multi-million-dollar international arms deals.

Brenneke was tried and acquitted of perjury this year for testifying in another alleged former CIA agent's criminal case that US Republican Party officials made a deal with Iran in 1980 not to release 52 American hostages until Ronald Reagan was inaugurated as president.

Both Italy and Sweden have announced investigations into allegations made on

Italian state television.

"The statements that someone linked with P-2 was involved in the murder (of Palme) are not new," said Hans Olveho, head of the Swedish police task force investigating the assassination.

Olveho said in Stockholm the statement made on Italian television was one of thousands of tips to be considered in the assassination probe.

Meanwhile, Italian President Francesco

Cossiga, in a letter released on Sunday, called for an investigation into Brenneke's allegations in the televised reports.

The reports also quoted another purported ex-CIA agent as saying the CIA and P-2 were linked to Palme's death.

A parliamentary inquiry branded P-2 a "state within a state" which included top Italian businessmen, politicians and members of the military establishment.

Greece ratifies accord with US

Bases to remain for 8 years

ATHENS, Greece, July 24, (AP): The Greek parliament ratified a defence agreement today allowing two major US military bases to remain in the country for at least eight years.

While parliament was debating, three policemen in Crete were shot and slightly injured by demonstrators opposed to the bases presence on the island, the public order ministry said.

The treaty with the United States guarantees defence of Greek territory against any hostile country. It was signed by representatives of the two countries earlier this month.

It comes after 19 rounds of negotiations and three changes of government in Greece, continuing a defence relationship between the two Nato countries that began in 1955.

The US Congress will now be asked to ratify an aid package to Greece which includes \$345 million to buy US military equipment, as well as surplus planes and four destroyers worth about a billion dollars. The United States is also expected to write off \$50 million in past debts.

Special Report

Folsom family 'hangs tough'

Struggles with Aids, suicide

DUXBURY, Vermont, July 24, (AP): Doug Folsom bought a gun, left a recorded message telling his wife to "hang tough," climbed into the hammock outside his family's Duxbury home and pulled the trigger.

The June 6 suicide followed two years of watching his young wife and 3-year-old daughter Angela wither from acquired immune deficiency syndrome. He lived with the fear that 4-year-old Nicolette, who so far has managed to escape the disease, would test positive.

"That poor man, watching his little girl and his wife just go through this deterioration. This forced him to kill himself, something he said he'd never do. So he was forced to leave me," said Jennifer Folsom, her body frail from fighting the disease and struggling to keep her family together.

She studied a framed photograph of the couple taken years earlier. Both are smiling. Doug's arm is tossed over her shoulders. The picture rests on a table within easy reach of Jennifer's chair.

"I have a very strong attitude of 'try me.' His whole attitude was 'why me?' He danced as long as he could. The wind was just taken out of his sails. I feel bad for him. He didn't deserve that."

Aids has been a relentless enemy since Jennifer was diagnosed in February 1988. The doctor gave her the test results in his empty office after closing; he was concerned, she said, about how his staff would react to an Aids patient.

"I drove home. It was a long ride," Jennifer recalled. "All I could see was gloom and doom and death. I thought of suicide. I went into my room and I didn't ever want to come out."

A blood transfusion during an emergency appendectomy in a Massachusetts hospital in 1979 — before blood supplies were tested and purged of the virus — probably carried the Aids virus into her body.

Angie probably contracted the virus during the pregnancy. Nicolette is tested every six months, and Jennifer prays her healthy, older daughter will remain free from Aids.

"Here I am, this white, middle-class housewife living in Vermont, trying to make a living. How dare this disease come into my home? It's Aids. I eat and drink and sleep Aids. But I'm not afraid of it anymore," Jennifer said.

Jennifer told her parents she was suffering from Aids, but told others that she had cancer. "We weren't sure how people were going to react," she said.

Jennifer relies on her family. Her parents visit daily to help care for the children. Her brother has taken a leave of absence from his Washington job to help Jennifer wade through the red tape of locating financial assistance. Other sisters and brothers also help out.

A visiting nurse stops by the home to supplement Jennifer and Angie's weekly trips to the university health centre in Burlington. Two community fund-raisers have planned to help raise money to cover the mortgage and medical bills.

Jennifer also attends a support group — one woman, 10 homosexual men.

Doug Folsom knew all of this, and he could not bear it. Nicolette, who says her mother and sister have "huggies," understands as well; she once drew a picture of the blue sky with a rope hanging down to the house, telling Jennifer it was God sending a rope for Angie.

But Nicolette recently amended the caption.

"It was for daddy," she said.

The defence agreement was passed with the necessary simple majority in the 300-member parliament at the end of a three-day debate. All 151 members of the ruling Conservative Party voted in favour, and 144 deputies of the socialist, communist and environmentalist parties voted against.

Three Socialist deputies and an independent abstained in the roll call.

The agreement will become law as soon as it is signed by President Constantine Caranmanis and is published in the government gazette.

The treaty covers two major military bases on the southern island of Crete — a naval support facility at Souda Bay and a Hellenic air station near the village of Gournes.

A naval communications station at Nea Makri, and Hellenic Air Base, both near Athens, have been slated for closure for cost-cutting. Numerous relay stations throughout Greece will also close.

Foreign Minister Antonis Samaras said at the signing of the agreement that the Souda Bay facility will provide refuelling for some surveillance aircraft previously stationed at Hellenikon. He said the aircraft will be stationed outside Greece.

Demonstrators demanding that the bases be removed from Crete clashed with police in the island city of Khania, after police fired tear-gas to prevent them from entering the prefecture building to deliver a petition.

The public order ministry said late Monday night that three policemen had been slightly injured by gunfire from demonstrators. Another five officers were hurt by gasoline bombs and stones.

A hospital source said 10 civilians were admitted with respiratory problems brought on by tear-gas and about another 40 people were treated for minor injuries.

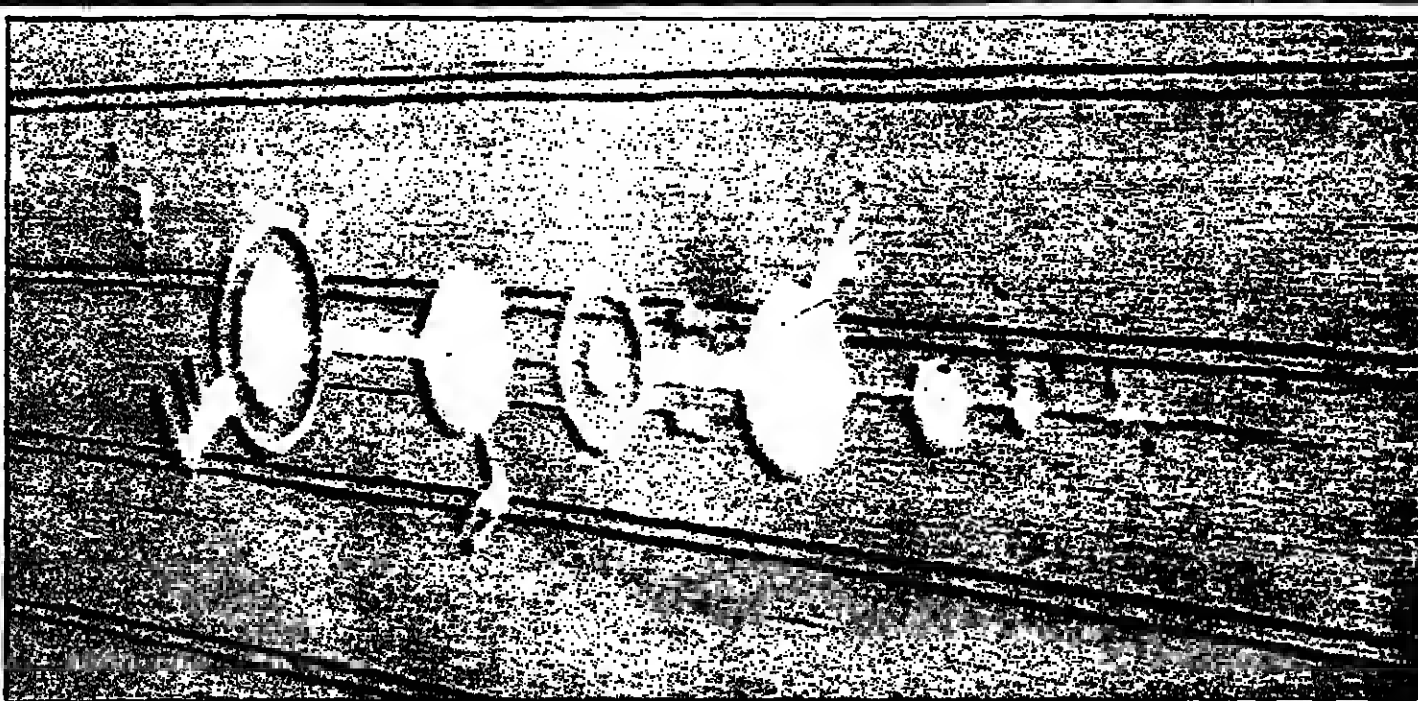
Demonstrators torched three police vehicles and part of the prefecture building with gasoline bombs, lit fires in central Khania and skirmished with police late into the night, witnesses said.

A previous five-year defence agreement between Greece and the United States expired in December 1988. Seventeen rounds of negotiations between the socialist government of Andreas Papandreu were fruitless. Coalition government last year put the issue on hold.

The conservative government, elected April 8, and the United States reached agreement in principle on May 30 after two rounds of talks.

The defence agreement guarantees the current seven-to-ten ratio to US military aid to Greece and fellow Nato ally Turkey respectively.

Greece and Turkey have been divided for decades over the Turkish presence on the independent island of Cyprus, control of airspace in the Aegean Sea area, the extent of territorial waters and defence of the Greek islands facing Turkey.



Aerial view of a mysterious crop circle that appeared in a field 20 miles (32 km) north of Salisbury, southern England, recently. Experts from Japan, US, West Germany and Britain on Monday began high technology investigation into the source of the circles, hundreds of which appear each year. (Reuters wirephoto)

'Operation Blackbird' run by BBC, Japanese network

UK to probe crop circles

LONDON, July 24, (UPI): A major investigation began yesterday to discover whether aliens, whirlwinds or practical jokes are the cause of mysterious symmetrical circles that appear in crops across southern England.

'Operation Blackbird' involves the continuous operation of more than £1 million (\$1.8 million) worth of heat, light and sound detectors during the next three weeks to try to record the circles being created.

Experts have not been able to explain the circles, which for the past decade have been appearing mostly in the southern English counties of Wiltshire and Hampshire at mid-summer.

"We want to show that it is not a hoax," said David Morgenstein, a member of the investigation being run by the British Broad-

casting Corp. and a Japanese television network. "Crop circles are caused by something else than young farmers turning out of the pub or little green men in spaceships."

Organisers have tried to deploy equipment over as wide an area as possible, but concede that it will be random chance if the infrared cameras and spectrum sensors record a circle being created.

The phenomena appear as a flattened section in crops, usually wheat, and are very symmetrical with precise boundaries. The appearances have been getting increasingly complex, some now involving bar-shapes and complex loops, and can be hundreds of feet long.

Numerous witnesses have reported seeing

airborne orange lights in locations where circles have appeared, fuelling theories that spaceships from an alien planet have landed and crushed the crops.

Ideas that the circles are caused by local pranksters have been largely rejected because there are never any signs of a tractor or person going to the location, with surrounding crop areas being untouched.

A conference last month of various experts concluded that the circles were probably the result of freak melding of hot and cold air, creating vortices of energy that spun around at ground level, causing patterns in the crops before dissipating.

But Colin Andrews, an author of a book on the subject and the organiser of Operation Blackbird, rejected the whirlwind theory.

Thatcher drops 7 ministers, appoints 2

LONDON, July 24, (AP): Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, in a shakeup of the middle and junior ranks of her government, dropped seven ministers yesterday and appointed two new ones.

The reshuffle followed the July 14 resignation of Trade and Industry Secretary Nicholas Ridley, who quit after making anti-German remarks.

Ridley was replaced on the same day by a former Treasury official, Peter Lilley, and Monday's moves involved no further changes in Thatcher's 22-member cabinet.

Thatcher moved or replaced 20 lower-ranking ministers — about one-fifth of the government members who hold jobs outside the cabinet — in the sixth shakeup in a year.

In the most senior appointment, Thatcher named Francis Maude, currently the foreign office minister responsible for Asian affairs, as the new financial secretary to the Treasury, replacing Lilley.

Maude, 37, a rapidly rising politician who shares Thatcher's views on the right of the government Conservative Party, was in Hong Kong yesterday and was to travel to China for talks about the colony, which is due to be handed over to Beijing in 1997.

Thatcher named three new appointees at the Foreign Office, and another staunch loyalist, Tristan Garel-Jones, who was a deputy whip in the House of Commons.

The third new Foreign Office minister named was Lord Calthorpe, currently a Treasury official.

However, Thatcher also appointed a rank-and-file legislator who is a prime critic, Sir George Young, as a deputy whip in the Commons. It was seen as an attempt to balance the government jobs between party right-wingers and liberals.

Young has been a leading rebel in the party against an unpopular new local government tax, the so-called poll tax, imposed this year.

Distributor to fight ban

Licence refused for Rushdie film

LONDON, July 24, (AP): The distributor of a Pakistani film that depicts author Salman Rushdie as the murderous agent of an international conspiracy says he will fight a ban on its showing in Britain.

Mohammed Fayyaz said yesterday he will appeal the ban by the British Board of Film Classification, on grounds that the film is merely a work of fiction, and go to the courts if necessary.

The board has refused to licence distribution of "International Guerrillas" because police had advised that it could be criminally libelous.

Fayyaz, in an interview at his southern London video shop, said he will increase efforts to distribute "International Guerrillas" in Europe and North America.

The 3-1/2-hour film portrays Rushdie as the agent of a Jewish conspiracy against Islam. The film shows



People crowd at a cinema to see Pakistani film "International Guerrillas," depicting the relentless struggle to punish Salman Rushdie for his book "The Satanic Verses." The picture is banned in UK due to the late Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini's condemnation of the author and award of death sentence to him. (Reuters wirephoto)

the author torturing and killing Muslims, until at last the Rushdie character is killed by a bolt of lightning.

Rushdie's novel "The Satanic Verses" was harshly criticised as blasphemous by some Muslims and prompted the late Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran to call for the author's death in February 1989. Rushdie has been hiding ever since.

Fayyaz, speaking in a shop crammed with thousands of videos, called the Rushdie film a purely imaginative thriller.

"It is like a James Bond thriller. If you drop the name Salman Rushdie then it is just like James Bond," he said, referring to the popular, fictional spy character.

But James Ferman, chairman of the Film Classification Board, said the board had been advised it "could be cited as an accessory if we were irresponsibly to pass this video."

Rushdie himself said the film deserves the same rights as his book, an associate said.

"The Satanic Verses" was accused of being blasphemous, it had a judicial review and went through the British courts which decided it wasn't blasphemous," said Frances D'Souza, who spoke to Rushdie yesterday.

"The film should be treated in the same way. If it does actually infringe British law then action can be taken," she added.

Shuttle to fly in few weeks, says Nasa

TOKYO, July 24, (UPI): A senior Nasa official said today the grounded space shuttle fleet could be ready to take off in a few weeks.

"If we're lucky, we should be flying in the next few weeks," said Adm. Richard Truly, a Nasa administrator on a tour of Japan. Hydrogen tests at the Nasa launch centre in Florida Wednesday could determine which shuttle will be first to resume flights, Truly said.

The space shuttle fleet was grounded early this month when hydrogen leaks in the fuel lines were discovered.

It was just one of a recent string of problems for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Two days before the shuttle fleet was grounded, Nasa announced a defect in the primary mirror on the \$1.5 billion Hubble space telescope.

This week, the launch of the Atlas rocket was pushed back three times in four days because of technical malfunctions and bad weather.

"The shuttle (hydrogen) leaks and the problems with the Atlas are just normal space business," said Truly.

"If a piece of aircraft is not ready to fly, we don't fly until it's fixed," he said.

"The Hubble is totally fixable and by the end of its mission, it will receive all the scientific information that it set out to get," he said.

The launching of the faulty telescope has led to an investigation into the project's preparation.

Reports show that the blurriness in the telescope's mirror could have been detected by more tests in the early 1980s.

Truly is currently touring facilities of the Japanese space programme to assess possible collaboration in space between the United States and Japan.

Japan is to co-operate with the United States in the assembly of a space station to begin in 1995.

Truly said the delay in the space shuttle programme will not affect the start of the space station project.

An electrical problem forced postponement of the third attempt to launch an unmanned Atlas rocket, carrying a government satellite.

The third try came yesterday, when launch was called off after the \$65 million rocket failed to transfer to internal power just before liftoff. The problem lies in a switch to shift electrical power from the ground to batteries on the booster.

"Obviously, it's always disappointing when you can't launch, but one of these days everything will go right and we'll have a success," said Jack Isabel, spokesman for rocket builder General Dynamics.

Isabel said there will be no attempt to launch the rocket today. He said another launch date will not be set until the switch is repaired or replaced.

General Dynamics and Nasa's first attempt to launch the rocket, on Friday, was halted because of a helium leak caused by a loose vent duct. The entire set of four liquid helium vent ducts was replaced in time for another try on Sunday, but the threat of thunderstorms forced postponement again.

The rocket's payload, the \$189 million combined release and radiation effects satellite, is a joint programme of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Defence Department.

The 2-ton satellite, known as Ceres, is to be boosted into an elliptical orbit ranging from 217 miles (350 kms) to 22,236 miles (35,784 kms) high. Twenty-four canisters filled with barium, lithium and other chemicals will be ejected from the spacecraft at various altitudes over the next year.

The sun's ultraviolet rays will ionize the released chemicals, creating large, glowing clouds that will spread along earth's magnetic field lines. The displays will be visible to the naked eye and, in some cases, resemble the Aurora Borealis, or the northern lights.

First prostate surgery by robot

LONDON, July 24, (Kuna): The first patients are to undergo prostate gland surgery at the hands of a British robot in trials planned for the end of the year, it was disclosed in London today.

The trials, to be run in conjunction with the institute of urology in London, will test a specially designed mechanical surgeon built by the Imperial College in London, the British media said.

Encouraging pilot studies have been supervised by Anthony Timoney, a surgeon and research fellow at the institute, who has assessed the accuracy, speed and safety of robot-assisted surgery in operations in which a potato was used as the prostate gland.

The Times newspaper said that tests indicate that a robot, supervised by a human surgeon could cut theatre time from a hour to five minutes, and extend the working lives of surgeons, many of whom in their 50s suffer hand shakes that force them to retire.

REQUIRED

1) DESIGNER

FULL TIME OR PART-TIME

2) SALESWOMEN

TELE: 2458101 - 2458502

Former Greek minister Athanasopoulos accuses EC of 'orgy of illegal acts'

ATHENS, July 24, (Reuters): A former Greek government minister said yesterday criminal charges against him in an EC grain scandal were insignificant compared to "the orgy of illegal acts committed by other European Community countries."

Former deputy economy minister Nikos Athanasopoulos, in his final plea before being judged by a special 13-member court, said the charges were a political plot to wreck the Socialist Pasok Party.

"The purpose of my persecution is to defame the party to which I belong," he

said, referring to Pasok (the Panhellenic Socialist Movement) which ruled from 1981 to 1989.

Athanasopoulos said in court that along with other Pasok ministers he decided to cover up an illegal \$9 million sale of Yugoslav corn to the EC in 1986. Greece was fined \$2.5 million by the EC in 1987 for trying to pass off the corn as Greek.

Athanasopoulos could face a jail sentence of up to 20 years if convicted of covering up the fraud, which occurred before he became deputy economy mini-

ster. There has never been any suggestion that he made money out of the deal.

A string of former Socialist ministers have testified that such illegal sales, to avoid EC tariffs and claim EC subsidies, were normal practice in the 12-nation bloc.

"The charges against us are insignificant when compared to the orgy of illegal acts committed by other EC countries," Athanasopoulos, who is also a former state prosecutor, told the court.

He said the decision to cover up the

scandal was taken during three meetings involving seven ministers for the sake of the national interest.

He is the first of six former ministers to stand trial on corruption charges stemming from the eight years of Pasok rule. Former prime minister Andreas Papandreu, 71, is among those charged.

Papandreu, accused of complicity in a \$200 million bank embezzlement scandal and illegal telephone wire-tapping, is due to stand trial after the Athanasopoulos case ends.

INTERNATIONAL



An elderly Mongolian lady holds her grandchild in the dim interior of a yurt in the town of Housgol. Mongolia began multi-party elections on July 22. (Reuters wirephoto)

Landslide victory

Mongolian reds appear assured

ULANBATOR, July 24, (Reuters): The ruling Communist Party appeared assured of a landslide victory in Mongolia's first free elections after preliminary results from Sunday's first-round voting were announced today.

Prime Minister Sharavyn Gunjaadorj told jour-

nalists the number of non-communist candidates who would contest the communists' 69-year-old monopoly on power in this Sunday's main election had been whittled down to less than 20 per cent of the total.

A staggering 92.4 per cent of all voters cast ballots

last Sunday, with nomadic herdsmen riding vast distances on horseback to ballot boxes scattered across the land. Only two million people live in Mongolia, a country the size of Western Europe.

"It has been a comparatively free and fair (election)," Gunjaadorj told Mongolian and foreign journalists in a news conference.

"But because we are doing this for the first time, there have been some shortcomings and bumps. But still we hope there will be no conflicts," he added.

Sunday's voting was the first stage in electing representatives to the 430-seat parliament, or Great People's Hural. That body will pass legislation generated from the 53-seat Small Hural, which is to be elected this Sunday.

Mongolia began a rapid transition toward democracy at the end of last year when opposition groups emerged, taking heart from democratic revolutions in Eastern Europe.

Glasnost in the Soviet Union meant that Mongolia's northern neighbour did not order the suppression of anti-communist dissent here as it had done consistently since 1921 when the Soviet Red Army installed Moscow as Mongolia's overlord.

The Communist Party gave up its constitutionally guaranteed monopoly on power in March this year. But democracy remains an unfamiliar concept.

Foreign observers invited to last Sunday's election said they saw some people queuing at polling stations with three ballot tickets in their hands, a mistake the observers said seemed to stem from misunderstanding rather than mischief.

In the capital, Ulan Bator, where hour-long voting queues built up on Sunday, residents said their first taste of free elections was delicious.

"It was a wonderful feeling to be able to vote against the Communist Party for the first time. It was like swearing at them," said one young man who voted for one of the six opposition parties.

Quake toll surpasses 1,600

New tremor hits Negros Island, no casualties

MANILA, July 24, (Agencies): The death toll from last week's earthquake surpassed 1,600 today as search teams reported finding more bodies in devastated mountain communities.

A new tremor, measuring 6 on the Richter scale, hit the central island of Negros earlier today, but there were no reports of damage or casualties.

President Corason Aquino inspected damage in her home province of Tarlac, where numerous churches, schools and highways were damaged by the July 16 quake, which measured 7.7 on the Richter scale.

Yesterday, she asked Congress to approve 10 billion pesos (\$500 million) to rebuild damaged areas. Many Congressmen also want to stop making payments on the country's

\$26-billion national debt to free money for reconstruction. Figures from the office of civil defence and the Red Cross showed at least 1,621 people were killed in the quake. More than 3,000 were seriously injured and about 1,000 are listed as missing.

Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos, chairman of the National Disaster Co-ordinating Council, said nearly 90,000 people were left homeless.

Rescuers continued digging today through the rubble of collapse buildings in Baguio, where more than 370 people died, and in remote areas of mountainous northern Luzon. In Baguio, 130 miles (210 kilometres) north of Manila, three bodies, one of them a

woman, were dug from the rubble of the Hyatt Hotel today. The luxury hotel collapsed during the quake.

Afterquakes continued to be felt in the area. Seismologists said the tremor on Negros was actually an aftershock of a June 14 quake that killed seven people on the central island of Panay.

The Philippines sits astride 10 major faults or tremor tracks and is among the most earthquake-prone country on earth.

In a speech yesterday to Congress' summer recess, Aquino rejected proposals to divert foreign debt payments to finance recovery.

She thanked foreign rescuers but omitted any reference to an American serviceman, Marine Capt. Michael Shannon, who was killed Friday when his plane crashed near Baguio on a rescue mission. Aquino's spokesman said the government was grateful for the American aid, but the Philippines did most of the work.

Aquino also did not cite cadets of the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio, who were the first to launch rescue operations in that mountain resort following the quake. Graduates of the academy have been at the forefront of six coup attempts against her government.

Aquino said she would ask the National Disaster Co-ordinating Council who to specifically thank later.

During the speech, Aquino refused to endorse congressional proposals to suspend payments on the country's foreign debt for two years.

"It is also my hope that Congress would share with me the concern that any move we take on the manner of debt repayment must never jeopardise in any way our painfully built good standing with our creditors," she said.

Supporters of the moratorium said they would press ahead with their proposal despite Aquino's opposition.

In Manila, the House of Representatives swiftly approved a \$434 million fund to rehabilitate areas ruined by the July 16 tremor. The approval came only hours after Corason Aquino presented the measure yesterday.

The Senate was also expected to approve the fund shortly.

In another development, Press Undersecretary Horacio Paredes told reporters 200 troops were sent to secure buildings, gas stations and other facilities after looting broke out Monday night in some parts of the hard-hit mountain resort city of Baguio.

Paredes did not elaborate, but residents of remote villages had complained about the slow distribution of relief goods. He said the government had airlifted 96,000 tons of relief supplies to towns surrounding Baguio.

The military office of civil defence put the quake death toll at 1,597, with 1,047 others listed as missing and feared dead, and 2,935 others injured. The social welfare department said 1,080,160 were left homeless by the tremor.

OCDA said workers recovered 698 bodies from landslides in towns near Baguio, and the nearby provinces of Abra, Nueva Vizcaya and Nueva Ecija.

In the hillside town of Carrangian in Nueva Ecija, 95 miles (152 km) north of Manila, Mayor Luzviminda Oitik said 2,946 houses were crushed by landslides and rescuers still were looking for hundreds of missing villagers.

Khmer rebels appeal for help

BANGKOK, July 24, (AP): Cambodia's Khmer Rouge guerrillas, in their first reaction to a US attempt to isolate them, appealed today for international help to allow them a role in the settlement of the war.

Widespread backing for the guerrilla coalition's United Nations seat has ensured that the UN charter and international law "prevail over the law of the jungle and the use of force," Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan said in a statement over the guerrilla radio.

Khieu Samphan was reacting to the US decision, announced last Wednesday, to withdraw its recognition of the UN seat held by the guerrilla coalition. The United States, citing its opposition to the Khmer Rouge, said it will instead open talks with Vietnam on ending the Cambodian war.

The coalition includes the Communist Khmer Rouge with two weaker guerrilla groups fighting the Vietnamese-installed government to the capital of Phnom Penh. The other two members are the non-communist forces of Prince Norodom Sihanouk and of Son Sann's Khmer People's National Liberation Front.

Opposes

The US opposes the Khmer Rouge because of the hundreds of thousands of Cambodians they killed from April 1975 until 1978 while trying to turn the country into a system of primitive agrarian communes.

Vietnam ended the carnage in late 1978 by invading, ousting the Khmer Rouge and installing a new communist government led by Khmer Rouge defectors.

The key issues to settling the current Cambodian war, according to Khieu Samphan, are a verified pullout of Vietnamese troops, a comprehensive UN role in a settlement, and the participation of all four Cambodian factions in a settlement.

Vietnam said it withdrew all its troops last September, but there was no independent confirmation.

"Only with the participation of all four parties can there be genuine national reconciliation and can we correctly implement international law and the UN charter, which says that the people of each country have the right to decide their own destiny," Khieu Samphan said.

Settlement

The Khmer Rouge have called for a four-party coalition government in the period before elections. The Vietnamese-installed government, however, wants the interim power, and says any settlement must include measures to prevent a Khmer Rouge return to power.

A US military delegation arrived in Phnom Penh today to inspect remains believed to be Americans missing from the Vietnam war, marking the first official US contact with the Vietnamese-installed Cambodian government.

"This is a good sign for relations between the United States and Cambodia, even though we do not have diplomatic relations," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Chum Bun Rong.

The six-person delegation headed by Lt Col Joe Harvey, commander of the US military's joint casualty resolution centre, was scheduled to meet Cambodian officials to discuss efforts to account for 83 Americans still listed as missing in action in Cambodia and to view remains believed to be some of the missing. (UPI)



A lone resident of Baguio carrying his belongings walks on foot to leave the city on July 19. Thousands of people fled the quake-hit town in fears of aftershocks and food shortages. (Reuters wirephoto)

UK minister visits China

Whitlam meets Li

BEIJING, July 24, (AP): The first senior British official to visit China since Beijing crushed last year's democracy movement arrived today, extending a pattern by other Western nations of gradually resuming normal government ties.

Foreign Office Minister Francis Maude, in opening a three-day visit, became the highest ranking official from Western Europe to visit China since the June 3-4, 1989, army crackdown.

"As permanent members of the (United Nations) Security Council, we have many shared interests and common responsibilities in the world. It's essential that we work together on these," Maude said on arrival.

His visit coincided with that of former Australian prime minister Gough Whitlam, who met on Monday with Chinese Premier Li Peng.

The official Xinhua news agency said Li told Whitlam, "the clouds of attempting to isolate China are dispersing as more and more countries are responding to China's sincere desire for friendly co-existence with other countries."

Most Western nations banned high-level governmental exchanges after the military crushed the pro-democracy movement. But the European Community granted exceptions to Britain because of its links with Hong Kong and to Portugal, because of Hong Kong's return to Chinese rule in 1997.

The British colony of Hong Kong reverts to Chinese rule in 1997 and the Portuguese colony of Macao is to be returned two years later.

Maude's chief mission is to advance discussions on Hong Kong, which has stalled since last year's bloody crackdown in which hundreds and possibly

thousands of Chinese died.

"The Chinese and British governments have a common responsibility for promoting stability and prosperity of Hong Kong," Maude told reporters at the airport.

"During my visit here, I shall be emphasising to my hosts the British government's wish to work constructively and positively with the Chinese to ensure the future of Hong Kong based on the joint declaration and the basic law," he added.

Maude was referring to the 1984 Sino-British agreement to return Hong Kong to Chinese rule, and to the mini-constitution that is to govern the island beginning in 1997.

Maude, who was met at the airport by Deputy Foreign Minister Tian Zengpei, is scheduled to meet with Premier Li Peng tomorrow.

Observers said Maude's visit could pave the way for other Western countries to resume normal diplomatic contacts.

Some signs emerged earlier this month at the annual economic summit of the seven industrialised powers that their stand on China was softening. China, now isolated for more than a year, is eager for such a move.

In recent weeks, China has hosted Japan and Canada's highest-level government visitor since last year.

Maude is likely to raise a variety of issues with Chinese leaders beyond the subject of Hong Kong. Regional issues, including Cambodia and North Korea, as well as bilateral ties and East-West relations probably will also be on the agenda.

Maude is expected to discuss Hong Kong's recently drafted bill of rights.

Baker to set off on marathon Asian trip

WASHINGTON, July 24, (Reuters): US Secretary of State James Baker sets off tomorrow on a marathon trip through Asia focused on resolving long-standing conflicts in Cambodia and Afghanistan.

Baker has set a grueling pace in the past six months as a key player in the historic remaking of Europe. His tour through Indonesia, Singapore, Irkutsk — deep in Soviet Asia — and Mongolia is unlikely to offer much respite.

In Irkutsk, Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will make a new attempt to solve the Afghanistan conflict.

The central question is what to do with Afghan President Najibullah in an interim period leading to elections. The United States says he must go, the Soviet Union disagrees but both say their views are inching closer together.

In Jakarta and Singapore, the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) is likely to pressure Baker to explain why Washington last week abruptly withdrew its support for the guerrilla alliance, dominated by the Khmer Rouge, fighting to topple the Cambodian government.

Alarmed by reports of the group's battlefield advances in the 11-year civil war and under fire from its own Congress for supporting the Khmer Rouge, Washington offered to open talks with Vietnam, the Cambodian government's main supporter.

The administration also said it could withdraw recognition within the United Nations of the Khmer Rouge, blamed for killing over a million Cambodians during a four-year reign until 1979.

Asean threatens to push off boat people

Lashes out at USA for hampering efforts in Cambodia

JAKARTA, July 24, (UPI): Southeast Asian foreign ministers threatened today to forcibly turn back boat people landing on their shores if the United States does not agree to forced repatriations or set up holding centres for the torrents of unwanted arrivals.

Bristling over the passage of the July 1 deadline for resolution of the problem without any action, dignitaries attending the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) ministerial meeting said the first-aid countries have "the sovereign right to take such actions as they deem necessary, including the abandonment of temporary refuge."

In a double-barrelled attack on the United States, the officials also warned Washington's decision to withdraw diplomatic recognition of the Cambodia guerrilla coalition could result in a Khmer Rouge military victory.

They lashed out at their long time ally for hampering their efforts at finding a solution to the 11-year-old Cambodian conflict and leaving them with unwanted refugees streaming out of Vietnam 15 years after the com-

munist victory. The Asean ministers representing Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, Singapore and Brunei issued a joint statement noting the ultimatum from a Manila meeting in May threatening to push boat people back to sea if the United States and Vietnam did not act by July 1 had passed "without any resolution of this problem."

The delegates said there will be no purpose in the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) convening another meeting on the problem "unless there are clear indications of political willingness by the two countries concerned to effectively address and deal with involuntary repatriation."

International refugee workers estimate Malaysia has pushed off boatloads containing about 8,500 people fleeing Vietnam in the past year, directing them to go to Indonesia instead. The Philippines has embarked on a policy of refusing to allow boat people to disembark unless a resettlement country

promises to eventually accept them as immigrants.

The first-aid countries, non-communist Southeast Asia along with Hong Kong, host 151,000 Indochinese boat people awaiting resettlement in the West. Maintaining the refugees are straining their economies, they set the initial deadline to allow the United States time to arrange alternatives for those screened out as ineligible for resettlement, deemed to be fleeing poverty instead of political persecution.

Noting Vietnam and the United States are still refusing to accept the involuntary repatriation of those screened out and have not set up a regional holding centre, the ministers said the position "is inconsistent with internationally accepted practice and risks establishing precedents that will lead inevitably to a breakdown of international understanding on the treatment of asylum seekers."

The Bush administration has steadfastly rejected mandatory repatriation on humanitarian grounds.

Iacovou expresses thanks to China

NICOSIA, July 24, (AP): Foreign Minister George Iacovou yesterday thanked his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen for China's support of a just settlement of the problem of the divided island.

Addressing the visiting Chinese minister during a dinner in his honour, Iacovou said: "I wish to express our gratitude for the principled support of the People's Republic of China to Cyprus."

He added he was confident that China "will continue exercising her great influence and using her international standing for a just and lasting solution to the Cyprus problem based on UN resolutions and principles."

Cyprus has been divided since a 1974 Turkish invasion seized the northern 40 per cent of the east Mediterranean island.

UN Security Council resolutions supported by China call for the withdrawal of the estimated 35,000 Turkish troops and 50,000 mainland settlers from north Cyprus and the return there of 200,000 Greek Cypriot refugees who fled or were forcibly expelled from their homes at the time of the invasion.



Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen delivers a message from Deng Xiaoping to Cypriot President George Vassiliou during a visit to Nicosia on Monday. Qichen is the first Chinese foreign minister to visit Cyprus. (Reuters wirephoto)

قانون العمل الجديد

Jaruzelski may resign: report

Controversy over the pace of reform causes split

WARSAW, July 24, (UPI): Polish television reported yesterday President Wojciech Jaruzelski may consider resigning, and said the general was ready to ask the public what it thinks of his performance in office.

The report was based on an article carried by the weekly newspaper Poprostu, which — supporting Solidarity leader Lech Walesa — said, "Jaruzelski is

going to take a decision on the resignation."

Jaruzelski, the communist president, was elected for a six-year term by Parliament last July.

Walesa has said Jaruzelski's tenure has not been effective, and the Solidarity founder's party, Centre Alliance, urged the President to step down. The party also said the only candidate who would sweep away

the remnants of communists from many managerial jobs is Walesa.

The alliance has demanded presidential elections be held this fall, while Solidarity Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki — and advocate of slower pace of political reforms — advocated having an election next year.

Ryszard Turzki, the editor-in-chief of Poprostu, said the review of Jaruzelski's

statements since March prompted his newspaper to conclude that the President will give up his job soon under growing social pressure against him.

According to the television broadcast, Waldemar Lozinski, Jaruzelski's spokesman, did not flatly deny the report carried by Poprostu but said the President was ready to ask the public what it thinks about his presidency.

Plan runs into trouble

Shevardnadze opposes Gorbachev

MOSCOW, July 24, (UPI): Mikhail Gorbachev's plan to restructure the Soviet federation has run into trouble within his closest circle of advisers, drawing opposition from Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, a witness to the dispute said.

Shevardnadze complained Gorbachev's vision of a looser association of Soviet states ignores local interests, said Andrei Krastins, deputy chairman of the Latvian Parliament, who watched the two quarrel at a meeting last Friday.

Gorbachev has since decided to reassemble both the presidential council and the council of the federation to discuss his plan to accelerate

economic reforms and push forward with a fundamental redistribution of power within the country.

Krastins said yesterday that Shevardnadze was the only person at the meeting of the two advisory panels last week who objected when Gorbachev presented the eight basic principles of his new national compact.

"I am afraid of a union treaty," Krastins quoted Shevardnadze as saying about Gorbachev's idea of a looser federation of states with wide independence rather than the current union of 15 republics controlled from the centre.

Shevardnadze, Krastins said, believes that the central government should hold separate negotiations at the highest level with each republic, similar to the forthcoming talks "with our friends the Lithuanians."

In another indication of high-level dissension in the Gorbachev camp, senior economic adviser Abel Aganbegyan chafed over the Aug. 15 deadline given his commission for choosing the best plan for a transition to a market economy.

Gorbachev last week called a new union treaty and the movement away from rigid central planning "two sides of the same coin."

Any hesitancy by Shevardnadze about the new national compact could hamper Gorbachev's plan for a decentralised union. Others would likely take such reluctance seriously because of Shevardnadze's reputation as a brilliant negotiator and his penchant for compromise.

Gorbachev's difficulties as he tries to restructure his huge country were evident at the meeting Friday, which the presidents of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania did not attend in another manifestation of the Baltic region's growing aloofness from Moscow.

Krastins, who attended the high-level conclave only as an observer, said Gorbachev noted that he had personally invited the Baltic leaders to the meeting and sharply criticised their absence.

"The directives of the centre are being ignored," Krastins quoted Gorbachev as saying.

Krastins, in a statement released to Western news organisations in Moscow by the Latvian government, provided the first detailed account of Gorbachev's vision for a new Soviet Union.

Gorbachev, who chaired the meeting Friday, outlined eight spheres to be reserved for the central government, some of which are sure to meet with opposition from republics straining for greater sovereignty or outright secession.

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis said in published remarks today his republic will not accept "an atmosphere of warnings, pressure and threats" during talks with the Kremlin this week.

In an interview with the independent Polish newspaper Zycie Warszawy, Landsbergis said he will demand the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Lithuania, which was annexed in 1940 along with Estonia and Latvia.



Invading Soviets killed 82 in Prague

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia, July 24, (AP): At least 82 people were shot by invading soldiers during the first four weeks of the Soviet-led military intervention that crushed reforms in 1968, according to new figures published today.

According to a declassified Interior Ministry report, the first six victims were shot at 3.30am on Aug. 21, 1968 — the night the Warsaw Pact troops and tanks rolled in.

The report was carried in the Obcansky Denik daily today, which said only five top Communist Party officials had been privy to it immediately after the invasion.

The first shootings occurred near the city of Liberec, some 100 kms (65 miles) north of Prague, the newspaper reported.

"During the occupation of Czechoslovakia by the armies of the five states of the Warsaw treaty... its members used various weapons against Czechoslovak citizens like machine-guns, submachine guns and artillery... killing 82 people, seriously wounding 302 and causing light wounds to more than 500," the daily said.

Romania was the only Warsaw Pact country that refused to take part in the invasion.

"The killing and injuries occurred both in direct shooting against groups of people and individuals, as well as in shooting against buildings and in the air, when people were shot in their apartments, or balconies... and in some cases even by deflected bullets," the daily said.

The report is the first in a series published ahead of the 22nd anniversary of the invasion.

The 1968 invasion restored hardline communism in Czechoslovakia, which was sustained for more than two decades by Gustav Husak, who replaced communist reformer Alexander Dubcek as party leader in April 1969.

Democratic changes which swept communists from power in Czechoslovakia last year brought dissident playwright Vaclav Havel to the office of president, saw the resignation of Husak and elected Dubcek to the position of parliament speaker.

US to move chemical arms from Germany

To Pacific island

WASHINGTON, July 24, (AP): The Defence Department yesterday said it was ready to begin moving US chemical weapons stored in West Germany to a remote Pacific island where the army is testing an incinerator for the first large-scale destruction of the arms.

The weapons at Clausen munitions depot in West Germany represent about two per cent of the total US chemical weapons stockpile, said Maj. Joe Padilla, an army spokesman.

The size of the stockpile is kept secret but private experts estimate that it is about 30,000 tons.

Padilla said the removal of weapons from West Germany could begin this week. They will be put in storage on Johnston Atoll, he said. Full-scale destruction of chemical weapons is not set to start until testing is completed late next year.

Deputy Secretary of Defence Donald J. Atwood Jr said in a statement that he certified to congress that the Johnston Atoll

chemical agent destruction system has destroyed chemical munitions during initial testing, and that the site has enough storage capacity to handle munitions transported from West Germany.

The Defence Department was required by congress to make the certification before it began moving the munitions from West Germany.

James Boyle, a spokesman for the US army in Germany, said he could not confirm a German Defence Ministry statement that the 100,000 artillery shells at Clausen would begin moving on Thursday.

Each convoy will include 20 flatbed trucks loaded with the chemical weapons stored in two air-tight steel containers and 60 other escort trucks, including German and US security forces, emergency response crews and decontamination teams, he said.

Boyle said there would be about 30 convoys, running one a day.

Search for Ukraine gold records

Bank of England delves into dusty archives

LONDON, July 24, (Reuters): The Bank of England has started searching its dusty archives to trace a barrel of gold supposedly deposited by a Ukrainian soldier 270 years ago and which the Soviet republic's new parliament now would like back.

One Ukrainian lawmaker has estimated the gold's worth today in trillions of pounds (dollars).

"We have established that in our current banking operations and in our safe deposit account we have no record of a claim of that kind," a Bank of England spokesman said.

"Now we're digging in our archives to see if we can trace the relevant account relationship."

The bank has not received an official request for the gold from the new parliament in the Ukraine. But Vladimir Yavorivsky, head of the parliament's commission on the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster, told the chamber claims had already been launched for the return of the treasure, willed by military leader Pavel Polubotok to a sovereign and independent Ukraine.

Ukrainian deputy Roman Ivanychuk said on Saturday that the gold was lodged with the Bank of England by Polubotok before he set out for St Petersburg for talks with the Russian imperial government.

German unity process slows

EAST BERLIN, July 24, (AP): The juggernaut of German unity has suddenly been slowed by what would appear to be a petty political clash, but which in fact could determine who runs the unified nation.

Politicians in both Germanys were pointing fingers yesterday while many of their constituents were shaking their heads over the amazing, seemingly trivial issue of whether unification should take place Dec 1 or Dec 2.

German newspapers have derided the partisan slugging as "sleazy" and "pointless", especially since East Germans are struggling with mounting joblessness and soaring prices.

In the past week, the issue has threatened to collapse East Germany's fragile coalition government of prime minister Lothar de Maiziere and laid bare intense, behind-the-scenes political manoeuvring.

The infighting intensified last night, when two parties in the government refused to attend a meeting of coalition leaders. They cited De Maiziere's uncompromising stance that unification must follow elections planned for Dec 2.

The outcome could help determine who will control the new German government, and which parties have a voice.

"It would be decisive for the composition of the parliament and the government," said Klaus Becher, an analyst of German politics for the German society for foreign politics. The centre is located in Bonn, West Germany.

East Germany's left-leaning Social Democrats — the nation's second-largest party — and a liberal alliance have demanded that unity occur a day before German elections.

They are demanding that all of Germany act as a single electorate that chooses a united parliament.

De Maiziere and several smaller parties — ranging from the former communists to the activists who overthrew them — want the two nations to formally unify immediately after elections are held.

Under this proposal, simultaneous elections would be held in each nation. The votes would be counted separately and political representation would be based on how each party did in its own country.

A political party left East Germany's coalition government today and another group threatened to follow suit in a political crisis over German unity.

A liberal political alliance that controls 21 seats in the 400-member parliament said it was leaving the seven-party governing coalition of Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere.

Anti-Jews man goes on trial

MOSCOW, July 24, (AP): A Moscow man went on trial in a packed and raucous courtroom today for allegedly inciting intolerance of Jews in a case highlighting fears of growing Russian anti-Semitism.

But Judge A. I. Muratov adjourned the trial of Konstantin Smirnov-Ostashvili, 64, for a day after only a few minutes of procedural work and two long breaks.

Muratov announced the delay as a crush of reporters hemmed the docket and noisy spectators interrupted the case by shouting "shame" at the court.

Smirnov-Ostashvili was arrested for allegedly organising protesters who broke up a meeting Jan 18 at the Central House of Literature in Moscow and insulted Jewish writers.

flashing, advertising to local people the fate of captured insurgents.

Arrested GPK suspects cower in the back of open trucks, semi-automatic weapons thrust under their noses by soldiers.

Local intellectuals and street vendors alike say more troops will just aggravate the resentment that has dissolved the government's information network and fertilised the movement.

"We Acehne are very proud and very temperamental. The harder you stamp on an Acehne the harder he will fight back," said a local lawyer.

In a letter circulated to the local press, a group calling itself the Nipal Liberation Front Aceh Sumatra said it



A Liberian soldier uses a bicycle for transportation in Monrovia. (Reuters wirephoto)



A hungry Liberian family returns to their village near Monrovia after a rice ration was issued by rebels. (Reuters wirephoto)

Troops repel rebel attack

Doe's mansion fired at

MONROVIA, July 24, (AP): Government soldiers patrolled the streets of downtown Monrovia today after they apparently repelled a surprise rebel attack the day before.

On Monday, a splinter rebel group waded across a swamp to shoot their way into the capital's centre, surprising government troops who had been defending two key bridges leading into town.

The downtown area reverberated with machine gun and rocket fire as the two sides fought yesterday. But today, there were no reports of fighting in the city centre, and civilians filled the streets in a vain search for food.

A rebel gunboat fired at President Samuel Doe's ocean-front executive mansion before dawn today and then sped away, witnesses said.

The ship, shrouded in the early morning darkness, could not be clearly seen from the shore. It fired at least six rounds at the heavily fortified command post where Doe was holed up with his remaining loyal troops.

Flashes could be seen from the

sea as the ship fired.

The mansion returned the fire, and the booming sound of cannon shots echoed through the sleeping city. After the boat disappeared, one shot from the mansion was observed falling into the sea, only a few hundred yards (metres) offshore.

The extent of damage at the mansion could not be immediately determined. Reporters who tried to go there and to the adjacent Ministry of Information were turned back by troops.

The rebels began their offensive in December and effectively control two-thirds of the country. They have accused Doe, who took power in a 1980 coup, of corruption, mismanagement and human rights abuses.

At least nine male bodies, most of them stripped of their clothing, were found on a beach not far from the beleaguered city's embassy district. Other bodies were scattered nearby.

Witnesses told a photographer that soldiers had brought the people there during the night and summarily executed them.

Dialogue will go ahead: De Klerk

JOHANNESBURG, July 24, (AP): President FW De Klerk will continue talks with black African National Congress (ANC) leaders despite claims that black nationalists will be preparing to seize power.

De Klerk said he would meet August 6 with Nelson Mandela and other top ANC leaders to try to clear the way for negotiations on sharing political power with the black majority.

But he warned all political groups against trying to seize power. He said after a meeting with senior government officials yesterday that there was no room for "any political organisation stockpiling arms in order to foment its will at the negotiation table in any other way to prevent the political process taking its normal course."

The ANC has confirmed its guerrillas continue to infiltrate South Africa, but reject post and media reports of an 1987 plot to seize power if political negotiations fail. Police have arrested dozens of ANC militants in connection with alleged plots.

De Klerk said he viewed his arrest in "an extremely serious light."

He rejected calls from the far-right apartheid main opposition Conservative Party and other right-wing groups to call off talks with the ANC. But he said the government was determined to maintain law and order.

"It is imperative that the government be maintained at all times. Therefore disorder, anarchy and terrorism will not be tolerated," he said.

The government and the ANC are trying to clear the way for constitutional negotiations. The ANC is demanding the release of imprisoned militants and other preliminary conditions.

In other developments, 34 do independent South African Press Association said today the toll from black faction fighting Sunday in Sebokeng, north of Johannesburg, had risen to 23.

The area was reported quiet today, when police patrolling roamed the township to prevent further clashes between armed militants and supporters of a conservative Zulu group. The dead in the Sebokeng shootings included a white police officer who was spared in chest, officials said.

Police said today that blacks had been killed in violence yesterday near Kimberley in Orange Free State, including a youth who was shot when a police officer was shot after one of his vehicles was attacked.

Police also said today bullet-riddled body of a policeman was found overnight in the black homeland of Bophuthatswana. Brian Ngoulungwa, a commission investigating the killing and an apartheid activist, was killed.

Police said they were investigating the death, but gave details.

The US embassy in Pretoria announced today that it had freed a militant who sought refuge in Durban consulate yesterday sex left of his own free will. B. umusa Jabulani Ximba, a political asylum, US official said.

Meanwhile, police arresting Ximba moments after he left the shelter of the US consulate. Ximba entered the consulate yesterday seeking political asylum after police broke an arms cache at his home in township near the coastal city.

Ximba's lawyer K. W. Mlaba told reporters that the consulate's client was willing to leave provided that he immediately charged and taken to court.

Police can hold political detainees indefinitely without charge under the Interim Security Act and Ximba was to avoid this. He was taken to a court after his arrest.

Confirmed ght

Ximba earlier said he chosen the US consulate because he wanted President George Bush to delay his plans in meeting with De Klerk until that question of continued detention of ANC members was resolved.

ANC officials confirmed Ximba, a 38-year-old labour technician, was a member that arms had been found in his house during a police raid.

The feud between the and Inkatha showed little of abating, with each blaming the other for the worst recent violence.

World News Roundup

America

Marilyn Quayle doing well: The wife of Vice-President Dan Quayle is doing well at Bethesda Naval Hospital after weekend surgery and is expected to return home later this week, a spokesman said Monday.

David Beckwith, the vice-president's chief spokesman, said the family did not want to disclose the type of operation the disease. Sources have told the Associated Press that Marilyn Quayle has cervical cancer.

"She's doing well at Bethesda Naval Hospital. We expect her home sometime this week," Beckwith said. (AP)

Rifles ban lifted: Several foreign-made semi-automatic assault weapons, including the AK-47, may again be imported into the United States after a year-long ban, the White House said on Monday.

President George Bush imposed a ban to keep the guns out of the hands of drug traffickers and other criminals, although he did not take similar action against domestically made weapons. (Reuters)

Electric chair tested: The condemned "man" had a metal strainer for a head, a vat of salty water for a body and a piece of pipe for a leg. Engineers testing the state's electric chair said he died quickly.

But attorneys trying to win reprieves for Florida death row inmates say they were unimpressed with the unusual test Monday. The attorneys have based their objections on a recent execution in which flames jumped from electrodes strapped to a Jesse Tafero's head.

Gov. Bob Martinez ordered a series of tests after the botched May 4 electrocution of Tafero. (AP)

Nasa setback: Nasa's controversial plan to build a \$32 billion space station has received a major setback when agency engineers reported that astronauts might have to spend more than 3,200 hours a year on hazardous space walks to make repairs, a finding they said calls for a major redesign.

The report comes as confidence in Nasa was sagging because of costly problems with two other programmes, the ground space shuttles plagued by leaky hydrogen fuel lines and the badly flawed design of the Hubble space telescope. The report also comes as budget-conscious legislators are re-examining the country's need for a space station. (Kuna)

Navajo trial to begin: The Navajo Supreme Court on Monday denied suspended tribal chairman Peter MacDonald's request to remove the judge presiding over his election-fraud case.

The trial is scheduled to start Tuesday before the tribe's district judge Robert Yazzie in Window Rock. But the tribe's Supreme Court scheduled a hearing before the trial's start to determine if MacDonald will have adequate legal counsel. (AP)

US Navy searches: The navy deployed a deep-sea probe Monday to search the Pacific Ocean floor for a jetliner door that blew off 17 months ago, killing nine people aboard United Airlines Flight 811.

The National Transportation Safety Board completed its accident investigation without the cargo door, but asked the navy to find it because the door could provide evidence to help improve aircraft safety.

The 226-foot navy tug Narragansett began laying eight transponders Monday, which will serve as an electronic grid to chart the movements of a high-tech ocean submersible, the centerpiece of the Orion search system. (AP)

'Killer bees': The so-called killer bees, an aggressive strain of honey bees, may reach southeastern Texas as soon as late summer, the government said Monday.

The hybrid bees have been migrating northward for more than three decades. They are a cross of African bees, brought to Brazil in 1956, and domestic varieties. (UPI)

Million acres scorched: More than one million acres of Alaska were on fire Monday, blanketing a large area with smoke, triggering health alerts, forcing evacuations and interfering with traffic on roads in Canada and to the Prudhoe Bay oil fields.

State officials issued health warnings for residents in the smokeiest places, including Fairbanks and Denali National Park, one of Alaska's most popular tourist attractions. "Smoke is all over the interior (of the state)," said Sue Mitchell at Alaska fire service headquarters. "When you walk outside, you can smell smoke and you can see smoke. The fires are 50 miles (80 km) from Fairbanks, but the smoke drifts in and then just sits there with no wind to blow it away." (UPI)

BC grizzly moved: A "real pretty" female Canadian grizzly bear has been transplanted to the Cabinet Mountains of Montana as part of an experiment biologists hope will boost the US grizzly population.

The 2-1/2-year-old, 157-pound (70-kg) bear was captured in British Columbia Sunday, fitted with a radio collar and released in the Montana wilderness.

The bear is the first grizzly to be moved into northwest Montana to bolster the grizzly population. Previously, only "nuisance" bears have been moved. (UPI)

Asia

Asia Watch reject charges: Asia Watch, a US-based human rights group, has rejected charges by Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew that it acted immorally and illegally to help a Singaporean opposition leader.

"Asian Watch became so partisan and determined to down the Singapore government that they aided and abetted Francis Seow by getting American doctors to sign false medical certificates in order that (he) need not return to Singapore to face trial," Lee said in a speech to university students.

Sidney Jones, the director of Asia Watch, told Reuters on Monday the charge was "ridiculous." (Reuters)

Singapore places ad: The Singapore government on Tuesday took out a full-page advertisement in The Asian Wall Street Journal explaining why it had barred the newspaper from sending a correspondent to cover an international conference.

Last week Singapore said correspondents from the Journal and the Hong Kong-based Far Eastern Economic Review would not be allowed to cover a meeting of the Asian Pacific Economic Co-operation conference, due to start on July 29. (Reuters)

General pardoned: A Chinese general court-martialed for failing to support the Communist Party's crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrations last year has been pardoned, a military source said on Tuesday.

General Xu Qinxian, commander of the 38th



Playing Margaret in "Faust," 1988 World and Olympic Ice Skating Champion Natalia Bestemirnova of Soviet Union performs with the Bolshoi Ice Ballet in Istanbul on July 22 during the Istanbul festival. (Reuters wirephoto)

Sirhan Sirhan

ADC protests parole denial

WASHINGTON, July 24, (Kuna): The president of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) has written to prison authorities in California strongly protesting a parole board's refusal to deny parole for Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the killer of Robert Kennedy.

Abdeen Jabara, in a letter to the California board of prison terms said the decision by the board to deny Sirhan parole in its June 26 hearing, was because of "anti-Arab bias and because of the political views held by the prisoner. This is unacceptable and must stop."

The Los Angeles deputy district attorney, Thomas Larry Trapp, who he outlined his objections to the parole board in June, declared that Sirhan still showed no remorse for his crime, because he had not, in essence denounced Palestine, his birthplace and because he admitted to being an admirer of Yasser Arafat, a fellow native of his place of birth.



A young girl splashes in the fountain at Trocadero in front of Paris' Eiffel Tower as temperatures soared in the French capital on July 22. (Reuters wirephoto)

group army garrisoned in the Beijing region, has been released from prison, the source said, quoting a high-ranking Chinese officer.

However, Xu was discharged from the military and retired without benefits. (Reuters)

China leaders healthy: Chinese Vice-President Wang Zhen said on Tuesday top leader Deng Xiaoping and other elderly communist veterans were in good health, the official New China News Agency reported.

Wang did not mention his immediate superior, President Yang Shangkun, who is recovering from an emergency operation.

The 83-year-old Yang was believed to be still in hospital after having his appendix removed earlier this month. (Reuters)

China welcomes: China Monday cautiously welcomed commitments given by some Western countries to relax restrictions on loans to Beijing and appealed for the lifting of all economic sanctions.

"We have noticed the positive indications by

'Aids-inmate'

Prison guard stabbed with bloody syringe

SYDNEY, July 24, (UPI): A young prison officer stabbed in the buttocks with a blood-filled syringe by a HIV-positive inmate will go through at least three months of agony before he knows if he has contracted AIDS.

Gary Pearce, 21, who finished training as a prison officer three months ago, was jabbed by the inmate on Sunday at Long Bay jail, eight miles (13 km) south of Sydney, as he left the man into an exercise yard, a prison spokesman said.

Medical officers said it would take between 12-14 weeks of waiting for the results of the blood tests they took on Monday. "Man, if I don't have it, I've got the rest of my life to live for, but if I do, I've got the next four years to make the most of it," Pearce said today.

On Monday 1,000 prison officers went on a 24-hour strike at the Long Bay jail complex and the Mulawa women's prison over the attack.

Pearce said the inmate asked him to open a gate leading to the weights exercise yard.

"The inmate was standing behind me and I felt him touch my backside, then I felt a sharp jab, the needle got caught in my trousers but I knocked it out when I spun around," he said.

"Some blood sprayed on my pants then he picked up the syringe and ran away shouting AIDS."

the heads of the Group of Seven at a conference held earlier this month on relaxation of economic sanctions against China," said Lio Xiang Dong, spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade. (Kuna)

Canadian minister seeks: The North Pacific needs a body like Nato in resolve the Korean conflict and other problems, Joe Clark, Canada's secretary of state, told his Japanese counterpart Monday.

The security organisation, structured along the lines of Nato or the conference on security and co-operation in Europe, would bring together Canada, Japan, North and South Korea, China, the Soviet Union, the United States and possibly Taiwan, Clark said.

A multinational group is needed because of the declining importance of the United States and the Soviet Union in the post-cold war era, Clark told reporters after a meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama. (UPI)

Nepal appoints commissioners: King Birendra Tuesday announced two new election commissioners as Nepal moves closer to holding a constitutional monarchy, amid signs that the democratic movement is spreading to another Himalayan kingdom.

A palace announcement said King Birendra appointed Kshyam Krishna Prasad Bhattacharya and Dhurwar Thapa as commissioners. In addition to the election commissioner who already is serving as commissions chief. (UPI)

War still haunts Japan: Japan is still haunted by its colonial past and its actions in World War II, Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said on Tuesday.

Japan brought great suffering to the people of the Asia-Pacific region during the war, Nakayama said in a wide-ranging speech at a business lunch.

"Now that we have become a large and important economic power, we should try to avoid anything that would lead people to think we are the same as we were before the war," he said. (Reuters)

Maoris seek acquittal: The family of a Maori chief who was hanged 124 years ago for the murder of a German missionary is seeking his acquittal.

Mokemo, chief of the Whakatane tribe, was hanged on May 17, 1866, for the murder of Carl Volkner.

"The family are not satisfied with the notion of a pardon," said Richard Boast, a law lecturer at Wellington's Victoria University who is assisting the family. (Reuters)

Egyptian wins award: An Egyptian scientist, Prof Dr Mohamed M. Abdel Rauf was today conferred the winner of Malaysia's Maal Hijrah personality award for this year for "his direct involvement in disseminating religious education and commitment to the Islamic struggle."

Prof Dr Mohammad, 73, received the award from the parliament ruler, the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong at a grand ceremony in Kuala Lumpur witnessed by 3,000 people including Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamed and Muslim diplomats. The ceremony was held to mark the Maal Hijrah celebration in Malaysia. (Kuna)

Travel boom in Japan: Reflecting the continuing travel boom in Japan, a record of more than 2 million Japanese will go overseas this summer with per capita expenditure of \$2,453, according to a recent survey by the semi-government Japan Travel Bureau.

ITS said the report was based on a survey conducted on travel plans by 2,000 men and women over the age of 18 at 200 locations across Japan in late May and early June. (UPI)

Japan's TV pioneer dies: Dr Kenjiro Takayanagi, pioneer of television in Japan and honorary member of the US Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineering, died of pneumonia at a hospital in Yokosuka, south-west of Tokyo, Tuesday, the company reported. He was 91 years old.

A native of Hamamatsu of Shizuoka prefecture (stat), Takayanagi developed cathode-ray tube mechanism in 1926 and implemented it in television. He also developed essential TV parts such as cathode-ray tubes and television tubes to lay the foundation for TV broadcasting. (Kuna)

Whales led to safety: Fishermen may have saved 60 stranded pilot whales by leading them to safety, according to Australian wildlife officials.

Fishermen found the whales Monday morning in very shallow water at the entrance to Blackman Bay, said Mark Holdsworth, wildlife management officer for the Tasmania's Parks, wildlife and heritage department.

Tasmania is an Australian island-state off the mainland's southern coast. (AP)

Cholera toll 321: At least 321 people have died in the past month in an epidemic of cholera and gastroenteritis that hit 22 of Nepal's 75 administrative districts, a spokesman for the Health Ministry said Tuesday.

More than 5,000 people have been treated for the disease, said Dr Arun Thapa.

Unofficial reports put at 500 the number of dead and some hotel operators showed concern for the epidemic's impact on tourism, Nepal's main foreign exchange source with some 300,000 foreigners visiting every year. (UPI)



A traditional Mongolian wrestler displays his prowess to passersby during National Day festivities in the town of Housgot, Mongolia began multi-party elections July 22. (Reuters wirephoto)

'Violent couples have more sex'

A US survey of 5,292 married couples

GAINESVILLE, Florida, July 24, (UPI): Couples in violent relationships have sex more often than other couples, according to a study that also said spouses with common interests and several children are the most sexually active.

Next to youth, shared interests were the greatest indicator of sexual frequency in a marriage, according to a University of Florida study released yesterday.

"Whether it's something as simple as taking walks together or enjoying the same hobbies, sharing activities outside the bedroom is a big predictor of how often married couples have sex," said Denise Donnelly, a sociologist who analyzed data from a nation-wide survey of 5,292 married couples.

Unlike other studies, Donnelly's research found that partners in violent marriages had sexual relations more often than other couples. "People in these marriages may have intercourse more because of a honeymoon period

that follows each outbreak of violence," she said. "These couples may not only fight with a passion but make up with a passion as well."

Another explanation might be that people who are physically expressive in showing their anger might be physically expressive in other areas of their lives, including their sexual relationships, she said.

Income, education, race and place of residence had no bearing on how often a couple had sex, Donnelly found.

But contrary to other studies, she found that couples with more children led the most active love lives.

"Other researchers have thought that the more children present, the fewer the interrupted opportunities for intercourse," she said. "In reality, the more one has intercourse, the greater the odds of conceiving a child, and the more children one ultimately has."

Not surprisingly, husbands and wives with school-aged children said they had sex more often than did those with younger children,

Donnelly said. "That is because preschoolers need more care and tend to intrude more," she said. "Your 13-year-old probably wouldn't pop his head in the bedroom door and say, 'what are you guys doing?'," but your 5-year-old very well might."

Donnelly found that married and/or declines as couples age, both for biological reasons and because society doesn't expect senior citizens to have active sex lives.

"One reason for the decline may be that society frowns on grandma and grandpa having sex," she said. "While young people are encouraged to have active sex lives, we tend to think of older people as being asexual."

Married couples in their 60s and 70s have sexual relations on the average of three times a month, compared to the national average of 6-1/2 times a month, she said.

Donnelly also found that people who lived together before marriage had more active sex lives than couples who did not.

Europe

Fire triggers shutdown: An electrical fire at a nuclear power station in central Russia forced the plant to shut down automatically, but there was no damage to the reactor, the government daily Izvestia said on Monday.

The station at Smolensk, 375 km (230 miles) southwest of Moscow, was on a design similar to one at Chernobyl in the Ukraine where a reactor went out of control in 1986, sending radioactive fallout over a wide area.

A fire in an electric table running to a reserve boiler at the Smolensk station triggered the automatic shutdown on Sunday, the report said. Firefighters put out the blaze. (Reuters)

Moscow ready to sell: The Soviet Union is ready to sell its powerful RD-170 rocket engine to the United States to try to earn foreign currency and forge closer ties with the US space agency, an aerospace weekly reported on Monday.

"This is the first time the Soviets have indicated the engine is for sale as a stand-alone item including Soviet support," said the industry journal Aviation Week and Space Technology.

President George Bush said last week he wanted to pursue US-Soviet space ventures, and the engine—possibly the most powerful in the world—could be used in power a joint mission to Mars, according to the engine's American marketer. (Reuters)

Yugoslav crisis to end soon: President Borisav Jovic said on Monday Yugoslavia's political crisis, which is threatening to break up the country, would be resolved by the end of the year.

"By the autumn, or at the latest by the end of the year, the Yugoslav political crisis will unravel," Jovic said according to Tanjug news agency.

He spoke in Ljubljana, capital of the north-western republic of Slovenia, which has threatened to break away from the Yugoslav federation. He held talks with local leaders there. (Reuters)

Recover stolen weapons: Anti-terrorist police using tear gas stormed an apartment, seized machine guns and other weapons and arrested a Finn suspected of stealing them, according to Monday news reports.

Police on Saturday afternoon surrounded the

Hungary, Czechoslovakia rejoin: Boy scout and girl scout programmes are reviving in Eastern Europe after decades of repression, the world organisation of the Scout Movement said Tuesday after reuniting Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

Scouting's status in Eastern Europe was a major topic during the first full day of the 32nd World Conference of Scouting. The week-long meeting has brought together about 1,000 officials of National Scouting Organisations in more than 100 countries. (AP)

Fire at refugee camp: Police on Monday blamed arsonists for a fire which destroyed part of a Swedish refugee camp two days before mainly Third World immigrants were due to arrive against the wishes of local residents.

Parts of an administration building and a hostel at Marichim on Sweden's southernmost tip were burnt down on Sunday. (Reuters)

Basque claim bombings: The Basque separatist organisation ETA claimed responsibility Tuesday for two recent bombings against Spanish targets in the Netherlands.

ETA said in a statement published in a Basque daily newspaper that it had carried out the July 6 bombing of the Amsterdam office of Spain's largest private bank, Banco Bilbao Vizcaya. The blast shattered windows along a 100-metre (100-yard) section of street and injured three people. (AP)

Busiest day record: Air traffic broke records in the past year with an eight per cent increase overall, the British Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) said Tuesday.

London's Heathrow airport set a busiest day record on June 30 last year, only to see it broken three times with a new peak set on June 28 this year, with 1,280 take-offs and landings, the CAA disclosed in its annual report for 1989/90. (Kuna)

Recover stolen weapons: Anti-terrorist police using tear gas stormed an apartment, seized machine guns and other weapons and arrested a Finn suspected of stealing them, according to Monday news reports.

Police on Saturday afternoon surrounded the

building where the 38-year-old unidentified suspect lived and fired tear gas inside when he refused to surrender, newspapers said. (AP)

5 die in freezer blaze: Five persons, including a three-year-old girl, were killed Tuesday at a northern village when a household freezer exploded and engulfed their home in flames, firefighters said.

The explosion of an old freezer in the kitchen of a home at Carnieres, 65 km (40 miles) from Lille, sent flames flying through the entire house, catching its occupants unawares, the firemen said. (UPI)

Swiss tourist killed: A Swiss tourist was killed Monday while swimming off a beach in southern Greece in an apparent hit-and-run accident by a vessel.

The Swiss embassy identified the man Tuesday as Jean-Pierre Jonni, 47, of Baden. Jonni was swimming off Porto Kheli, in the Peloponnese, when a vessel apparently hit him and sailed off. A Merchant Marine ministry spokesman said. (AP)

Mitterrand commutes sentences: France's youngest prisoner, a 14-year-old boy convicted of several thefts, reportedly was among 200 inmates freed under a presidential clemency order made public Monday.

The order was issued by President Francois Mitterrand on July 14, France's national holiday, but was not revealed at the time. (AP)

Support streams in: Leaders of an alliance formed over the weekend said they were inundated Monday with offers of support in their mission to end one-party rule.

"Volunteers telephoned or visited members of the steering committee that will co-ordinate multiparty campaigning for an Oct 17 referendum on Zambia's political future, committee officials said.

"It's really quite amazing... we hadn't expected this," said Vernon Mwanaga, publicity secretary for the newly named national interim committee for multiparty democracy referendum. (AP)

70 Uganda rebels killed: Government troops killed at least 70 rebels and captured 110 others in fighting in eastern Uganda, newspapers reported Tuesday.

Munro newspaper said the battles occurred Friday and Saturday in the countryside around Kumi, a trading town 186 kilometres (300 miles) from the Ugandan capital of Kampala.

The newspaper said the troops mounted a counter-offensive after Uganda People's Army rebels ambushed and killed three soldiers and later attacked a military barracks, burning several buildings. (AP)

Amnesty charges: Political pluralism is officially allowed in Cameroon, but authorities in the West African nation have detained and tortured members of a group which met merely to discuss forming a political party. Amnesty International said Monday.

The human rights organisation in a 20-page report also accused the government of President Paul Biya of murdering Pierre Ntseke, a defence lawyer who was representing the activists.

He was shot and killed on April 5 by government security forces in an incident police tried to disguise as an armed robbery, it said. (UPI)

Bucharest rally

A young Romanian child sits on his father's shoulders at an anti-government rally in Bucharest. More than 3,000 people asked for jailed student leader Mariam Munteanu to be set free. (Reuters wirephoto)

بشارة الحلال

Rafsanjani lashes out at hardliners

NICOSIA, July 24, (Reuters): Iran's pragmatist President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani yesterday launched a scathing attack on his hardline rivals.

Rafsanjani called for closer relations with the outside world, saying Iran could not survive without friends.

He defended the role of the Experts' Assembly, which chooses Iran's supreme leader, after leading radical Ali Akbar Mohtashemi sparked a political row by attacking its members last week.

"If a person or a trend is thinking of weakening that body organisation (the assembly), their action will be regarded as treason and will not be tolerated," Tehran

Radio quoted Rafsanjani as telling a gathering of clergymen.

Rafsanjani sacked Mohtashemi as interior minister last year. Mohtashemi supports radical Lebanese groups believed to be holding most of the 15 Western hostages in Lebanon.

Mohtashemi's attack on the assembly — perceived as the bedrock of continuity in Iran's Islamic system of government — outraged Rafsanjani and his backers.

The former interior minister said the assembly was in danger of becoming "a one-faction party" which would have been against the wishes of the late founder of the Islamic Republic, Ayatollah Khomeini

who died in 1989.

"Foundations are being laid today to make the assembly a one-faction body," he said. "This is a prelude to weakening the Experts' Assembly."

The Experts' Assembly chose Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as supreme leader in an emergency meeting after Khomeini's death.

Since Khomeini's death, hardliners have lost much of their power in the executive and judicial branches though they retain a strong voice in the Majlis (parliament).

"The present age is the age of international organisations and of commun-

ication. If we sever our links we will not be able to live, and we should not make enemies without any cause," Rafsanjani said.

The president has angered the radicals by openly campaigning hostages in Lebanon.

"The world is now willing more than ever before to have friendly ties with the Islamic Republic and you saw such a spirit in the quake tragedy," Rafsanjani said.

The English-language Tehran Times, which is close to the government, yesterday openly attacked Mohtashemi's remarks.

Qichen raps US for ME tension

NICOSIA, July 24, (AP): Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen criticised the United States today for interrupting its dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

"The suspension of the United States dialogue with the PLO has led to greater tension in the Middle East," Qian told a press conference at the end of a two-day visit to the divided East Mediterranean island.

Turning to Cyprus he said his visit and talks with President George Vassiliou were "a great success."

"The objective was to strengthen relations and make preparations for next month's visit to China by President Vassiliou," he added.

Qian said China supported a Cyprus settlement based on principles "safeguarding the sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of the island."

Co-operation
Cyprus has been unofficially partitioned since a 1974 Turkish invasion and seizure of the northern third of the island.

Qian said following his talks he expected "a large increase in trade, including the launching of a container service between the two countries."

He said joint ventures were also being considered, without specifying their type.

He said joint ventures were also being contemplated, without specifying their type.

Though Cyprus is a small country, its position in the Mediterranean lends itself to re-export operations, Qian added.

"I hope we will be able to increase economic co-operation," he said.

Tension

Dealing further with the Middle East, Qian said that despite the decrease of international tension following developments in Eastern Europe, "regrettably in the Middle East there has instead been an emergence of greater tension."

"In my view a new problem emerged in the Middle East which posed a further obstacle to the peace process. This was the new Israeli government which adopted a more hard line attitude not conducive to the peace process."

He added that the "new mass Jewish immigration to the occupied territories will only lead to a new situation altering the status quo and resulting in a greater number of Palestinian refugees, and provide new difficulties in the settlement of the Middle East problem."

Dialogue

Qian said "the best way" to settle the problem would be through an international peace conference to be attended by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and "all the parties concerned."

"Israel must put an end to the occupation and withdraw from occupied territories."

"It will be useful to have more dialogue between the United States and the PLO and a direct dialogue between Palestinians and Israelis."

Solution

"The eventual solution will be one under which a Palestinian state and an Israeli state will recognise each other and the Jewish and Palestinian nations will live in harmony."

Qian arrived in Cyprus from Saudi Arabia. He said talks there concentrated entirely on the establishment of diplomatic relations, which was announced over the weekend.

"We did not discuss any matters dealing with the sale of weapons," he added. China has previously supplied Saudi Arabia with long range CSS-2 missiles.

Qian left Cyprus to continue his tour with visits to Algeria and Morocco.

EEC leaders push for Mideast peace

Sharp debate over uprising, PLO involvement in talks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, July 24, (AP): European Economic Community (EEC) leaders ended their first talks with Israel's new right-wing government today after telling Israel to move toward Middle East peace if it expects economic co-operation from Europe.

The talks in Jerusalem by three EEC foreign ministers also produced a sharp debate about Israel's handling of the 31-month Palestinian uprising, Israeli reports said.

But Israeli leaders claimed progress was made in improving strained ties with Europe during the meeting with Foreign Minister David Levy

and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

"Lines of communication have been opened between Israel and Europe," Levy told reporters at Ben Gurion airport near Tel Aviv after the Europeans left.

Levy said earlier that he saw a shift in the European insistence that Israel's only way to make peace was to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

"They are ready to accept any idea as long as it shows a chance for the peace process, and they don't only demand talks with the PLO," Levy



Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir (right) meets with Irish Foreign Minister Gerry Collins (left) and Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis in his office (top) yesterday morning. Below, Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy (far left) extends his hand to welcome De Michelis (far right). In the background are Collins (right) and the Foreign Minister of Luxembourg Jacques Poos. The three European Community Foreign Ministers are in Israel for talks on Israel's position on peace. (Reuters wirephoto)

Soviets plan new emigration law

AMMAN, July 24, (AP): A member of a Soviet parliamentary delegation said today a new Soviet emigration law was being considered that would not "harm the Palestinians and Arabs."

Valentin Titinov, a member of the Supreme Soviet, told a news conference that the law "will take into consideration the interests of Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories and Arabs in general."

"The law will organise the emigration of Soviet people... and will not harm the Palestinians and Arabs," Titinov added.

His statement was seen as designed to curb mounting Arab criticism of the recent great increase in the number of Soviet Jewish emigrants arriving in Israel.

The new law mentioned by Titinov has not been put forward for approval. This would probably be done during the forthcoming fall session of the Supreme Soviet.

Political observers pointed out, however, that new tough restrictions were unlikely to gain the support of the Soviet government, which is anxious not to jeopardise closer trade and economic relations with the United States.

Israel and the Soviet Union are still far away from restoring diplomatic relations, Israel's Prime Minister

Yitzhak Shamir was quoted today as saying.

"We see no progress with the Soviet Union in the direction of normal diplomatic relations," Shamir was quoted as saying in an interview with West Germany's mass-circulation newspaper Bild.

"We are still far away from diplomatic relations," he added.

Apart from a shift by the Soviets on Jewish emigration, "we do not recognise any reconciliation points" in Moscow's policies, Shamir was quoted as saying.

Lack of progress on re-establishing diplomatic relations could be linked to "Arab pressure," Shamir told the newspaper.

"But the Soviet Union is a great country and such decisions should be the sole responsibility of the Soviet Union," Shamir was quoted as saying. "I don't believe that the Arab countries can force the Soviet Union to keep a certain position."

Shamir praised the Soviet government for allowing record number of Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel.

"This is a historic event for us, whose dimensions, I hope will be seen in the future. We are very thankful to the Soviet Union for this policy," Shamir was quoted as saying.

Ben Ali ponders next move towards democratisation process

TUNIS, July 24, (Reuters): Tunisia's President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali is pondering the next step towards the democracy he promised his country but both leftist and rightist opponents accuse him of dragging his feet.

After free and fair local elections in neighbouring Algeria last month, and freedom sweeping Eastern Europe, his progress looks increasingly modest, diplomats and political sources say.

The president came to power in November 1987 with a pledge to introduce a Western-style multi-party system. Opponents say little has changed since the days of

president Habib Bourguiba, when Tunisia was a one-party state.

Ben Ali's Democratic Constitutional Rally (RCD) party holds all the seats in parliament. In local elections on June 10, boycotted by the opposition on the grounds they would not be fair, it won control of 245 out of 246 local councils.

Ben Ali is making a speech on Republic Day tomorrow but political sources say he will probably wait till September, the traditional start of the political year, before announcing how he plans to break the political deadlock.

His party has made token concessions to

the two wings of the opposition, the secularists on the left and an influential Islamic movement on the right, but neither is satisfied with the extent or pace of reform.

"The superficial solutions by which the government has routinely dealt with the breakdown in the democratic process have not prevented a slow decay which in the long term poses a serious danger," the independent League for the Defence of Human Rights said in a statement last week.

Ben Ali's defenders say he has to move slowly because if he allowed a political

free-for-all, the Islamic right, organised around the unrecognised Nahdha Movement, could come to power and restore authoritarian rule.

Candidates backed by the Nahdha won 13 per cent of the popular vote in parliamentary elections in April 1989, far more than any other opposition group. RCD sources say it is clearly the second political force in the country.

But Ben Ali, in an interview with West German radio last week, dismissed the Nahdha, saying it was not part of the political equation because it had no legal status.



French junior minister Bernard Kouchner addresses journalists at an improvised press conference after he returned from vacation on Monday, to deny his involvement in the arms smuggling scandal between Lebanon and France. (Reuters wirephoto)

Minister threatens with legal action

French arms racket

PARIS, July 24, (Reuters): French Aid Minister Bernard Kouchner said yesterday it was possible that mercy flights organised by his ministry may have been used to smuggle arms from Lebanon into France.

"It seems difficult to imagine, but why not? I may have been tricked. My role as a minister of the French government is not to check inside luggage or aircraft cargo holds," Kouchner told a news conference.

Kouchner, who angrily denied any connection with or past knowledge of smuggling, was replying to accusations by a French policeman arrested on gun-smuggling charges.

He said members of the minister's entourage carried illegal arms from Lebanon aboard ministerial jets.

Kouchner, founder of the medical charities Medecins sans Frontières and Medecins du Monde, is a trouble-shooting junior minister for humanitarian areas and war zones. He has visited Lebanon several times on humanitarian missions.

Kouchner threatened legal action over French media reporting of the scandal and said some people were trying to discredit government foreign aid policies.

Six policemen have been charged in Marseille with smuggling weapons bought cheaply in Beirut and reselling them in France, possibly to underworld figures.

Labourdet, said by prosecutors to be the mastermind of the ring, was in charge of elite bodyguards at France's embassy in Beirut, and all six men worked at the embassy at various times.

Labourdet's lawyer Jean-Louis Linhart told reporters in Marseille that his client acted alone and the weapons he smuggled to France were for his private collection and not for sale.

French intelligence service, the DGSE, did use humanitarian organisations to infiltrate their agents abroad, but in the case of the arms traffic between France and Lebanon it would appear that there were only "private interests" involved, according to Pierre Marion, the former head of the DGSE.

In an interview appearing in "Le Parisien" daily newspaper, Marion said that in 1982, when he was head of the DGSE, his organisation "had used a number of convoys of humanitarian organisations carrying foodstuffs to Poland to send about a dozen agents" to observe the situation in that country after General Jaruzelski's coup.



Lebanon peace talks

Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi met Christian General Michel Aoun yesterday to try to get him to accept a peace plan to end the country's 15 years of civil war.

Political sources said Brahimi was trying to persuade Aoun, who denies the authority of internationally recognised President Elias Hrawi, to accept deployment of Hrawi's army in Christian East Beirut.

Under the plan Aoun and his rival Lebanese Forces (LF) Christian militia would withdraw from areas they control in the Christian enclave and handover "Administrative Beirut" to Hrawi. The LF accepted the plan.

The sources expected Aoun, who commands some 15,000 mainly Christian soldiers, to refuse uniting divided Beirut under the authority of the Syrian-backed president.

They said Aoun's rejection would bring the Lebanese crisis back to the beginning.

The Vatican last week also appealed to Aoun to accept the Arab peace formula.

Activist wants armed struggle

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, July 24, (Reuters): A Palestinian claiming to be a commander of a PLO-linked faction in the West Bank has said his group and others will take up firearms against Israel if peace efforts fail to produce results.

"The Masked Lion, the Black Panther, the Red Eagle and other groups were established in go to armed struggle if peaceful means failed," the Arab headman told the international television news agency Visnews in an interview broadcast yesterday.

The militant groups he named are linked with the Palestine Liberation Organisation in the occupied territories and have on occasion had armed clashes with Israeli troops.

Palestinians fighting the 31-month-old uprising against Israeli rule in the occupied territories have confronted troops primarily with stones and petrol bombs.

Speaking from a hideout, the pistol-wielding man said his group, "The Masked Lion," an affiliate of PLO chairman Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, as well as other groups still adhered to a PLO ban on firearms in the revolt.

The PLO prohibited the use of weapons against Israel since the outbreak of the revolt in December 1987 for fear of massive Israeli reprisal. But a top PLO official was quoted as saying earlier this month that the organisation was reviewing its strategy.

Seated in a room under a large Palestinian flag, the man said his group and others can acquire weapons in carry out military attacks against Israel.

He said they buy guns secretly from Israel, receive weapons smuggled across the border or make them at home.

One of three men standing around him carried an assault rifle that resembled a US-made M-16, which he said was home-made.

Though little known, the "Masked Lion" has taken credit for killing at least six Arabs in the Ramallah area on suspicion of being Israeli informers. Its former commander was shot and captured during a raid by security forces in the West Bank town of Al-Bireh.

Dressed in army fatigues, the masked man said his group would kill Arabs only if they are found to have sold land to Israelis, killed or attempted to kill nationalists or if they recruited other Arabs to work for Israeli security forces.

"We first try to talk collaborators out of what they are doing. If they do not listen, we threaten and then beat them. We carry out execution as a last resort," he said.

An 18-year-old Palestinian died today of wounds suffered in an earlier clash with soldiers. It was the first death from army gunfire in a month as the violence in the Palestinian uprising wanes.

The victim, Mahmud Haid Salameh, was shot in the neck July 14 during a clash between soldiers and stone-throwing youths in the West Bank village of Beit Lid, Arab reports said. They said he died in Tel Hashomer hospital near Tel Aviv.

Israeli belly dancers in parliament

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, July 24, (Reuters): Israeli belly dancers made a rare appearance in parliament yesterday to protest against religious authorities who are trying to restrict their shows.

The dancers complained that local authorities known as the rabbinate deprive them of work by pressuring owners of wedding halls and hotels to bar their performances.

They presented their case to the interior committee after it had discussed legislation sponsored by ultra-religious members to ban pork and close down sex shops in the Jewish state.

The anti-pig law has been proposed because pork is forbidden under Jewish law as an unclean animal.

"The rabbinate is preventing us from making a living," Leah Gavish, head of the belly dancers' union, told Israeli television during the session.

One dancer won a Supreme Court case by showing that the rabbinate had threatened to take away a vital kosher certification from hotels and halls if they allowed belly dancing.

Without the certificate, religious Jews would not hold parties at the halls.

"It is a disaster that heaven forbid we think that they should stop belly dancing at hotels that are kosher," said Menachem Porush, a committee member from the ultra-orthodox Agudat Israel party.

Kaufman, Shara discuss hostage plight

DAMASCUS, July 24, (Reuters): British shadow foreign secretary Gerald Kaufman discussed the plight of Western hostages held in Lebanon at a meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara. "I can say to you that after two hours of talks with the foreign minister that I am sure it was worthwhile my coming here," he told Reuters and Visnews afterwards.

Kaufman said Shara made it clear that Syria was anxious that the hostages, who include three Britons, should be freed but he was also "very careful indeed not to provide any hope which could not be fulfilled."

Syria, which wields great influence in Lebanon, has played a key role in arranging the release of several Western hostages there. But up to 15 westerners are still believed to be held in Lebanon by pro-Iranian militants.

Kaufman, of Britain's opposition Labour Party, said the question of relations between Britain and Syria came up during his talks with Shara but it was not a major issue.

Kaufman said his talks were "very, very frank. I put a great many questions to Mr Shara and he answered every one clearly."

KUWAIT ... GULF

3,473 work-related injuries in 1989

19 fatal cases

SOURCES at the Hawally governorate labour department have been quoted as saying that the total number of work injuries reported during the last year reached 3,473 of which 19 were fatal cases.

A study released on this subject, revealed that the number of workers registered at the Social Affairs and Labour Ministry Information Centre reached 4,69,863.

He added that the number of fatal injuries increased by two compared to the previous year-1988, while the number of

non-fatal cases decreased by 283 cases from that year.

The study indicated that these cases led to absence from work of the concerned workers amounting to 78,957 days in 1989 alone, while the number of lost days in 1988 decreased compared with 1988 by 2,925; the reason being a general decrease in the number of work injuries in 1989 compared to 1988.

The study pointed out that the injuries sustained were caused by the fall of heavy objects on workers, which included six

fatal cases and 1,054 non-fatal cases, fall from a height leading to the death of five people and injuries to 537 and injuries sustained by machines involving 3 death cases and 634 non-fatal cases, while the majority of work injuries in 1988/1989 were sustained within buildings, and construction and conversion of industrial sectors.

Compensation

The study says that the value of compensation paid by insurance companies to injured workers in 1989 included KD

2,06,996 for death, KD10,44,300 for permanent disability, and KD 1,27,749 for temporary patient disability, bringing the total value of compensation paid by insurance companies in 1989 to KD1,379,045.

The study also says that the cost of medical services, including cost of medication, doctors and nurses fees and hospital boarding fees and related ambulance services borne by the government accounted for 25 per cent of the total cost paid in 1989 and estimated at KD 344,761.

Telecom tower to improve services

Staff efficiency being upgraded

AN official source at the Ministry of Public Works has said that the idea behind the construction of the new telecommunication tower and building for the new telecommunication centre is to expand the old services to keep abreast with the steady development in this field. Besides the appearance of more than 12-metre high buildings have led to an increase in the demand for the telephone service.

The official said that the old type buildings did not contain more than five storeys and hence required 12 to 15 telephone lines, while the new high-rise buildings need a minimum of 150 to 200 lines. He added that the southern and eastern sides of the new buildings will be used as offices while the upper storeys will be used for telecommunication installations and related facilities.

He said that the project stage-III involves the completion of general offices on the southern and eastern sides of the tower, and it will also include all related public services, such as telephone, telegram, telex, facsimile and radio photo.

He added that the VIP halls, conference rooms and offices will be located on the sides, in addition to a medical centre, a library, showroom and basement parking lot with a 230-car capacity.

Lifts He pointed out that the tower will be provided with four external lifts linking the ground floor with the third floor, and those lifts will enable the public to have a panoramic view of the country through sun-reflecting bronze glazing.

He said that two of the lifts will

lead to a platform overlooking natural landscapes and restaurant 145 metres high, and a number of platforms will be provided at 228, and 219 metres.

Meanwhile, the former assistant undersecretary for telegram and telephone affairs Abdul Rahman Al Awadi has said that the magnetic auto-card is but one of the modern techniques introduced to facilitate overseas communications, and has therefore been very successful.

He said that the use of the magnetic auto-card has been helpful in reducing crowds at the central exchange offices and that holders could make overseas calls to any country in the world in both a time-saving and cost-effective way.

He told a local daily that the success of administrative development can be measured by the ability of the relevant department, ministry or agency to fulfil its objectives, and enable it to locate the points of weakness in its functional system.

Urbanisation The process of continuous urbanisation and expansion of the country's construction and housing projects have combined with the steady growth of population to raise the demand for telephone services, which led the ministry to open up new telephone centrals to meet the increasing applications for services, and provide high-density areas with the needed number of centrals, Al Awadi said.

He pointed out that the occasional delay in the processing of public transactions is caused by the lack of co-ordination between the ministry and

relevant service ministries, which is but a general symptom in different government ministries.

He said that under the dictates of the principle of putting the right person in the right position, specialists concerned with the idea of professional guidance develop needed programmes aimed at enriching the experience and qualification of the staff in order to optimise the level of their performance and consequently enable them to shoulder their functional responsibilities better.

He added that training courses are held to upgrade staff efficiency to take up higher positions, by way of improving public service levels and providing better services to subscribers.

He said the more refined the efficiency of staff the more immune to making mistakes they become and that, unfortunately, the ministry is in need for such specialised courses whether organised in or outside Kuwait.

He voiced support for the setting up of a joint GCC telephone grid saying that it was a very good idea, though requiring extensive studies, adding that the unification of calling tariffs is the key to consolidating inter-communication channels.

He stressed the need for the ministry to tighten control over public use of high-frequency wireless equipment, in order to ensure that it conformed to standard specifications, adding that eavesdropping on public telephone calls is an internationally banned practice, and that weak-spiced staff faced the charge of unwarranted eavesdropping and got their just desserts.

Housing loan not enough: citizens

By Nawal Al Hamil

A NUMBER of citizens unanimously agreed that the amount of the loan extended by the Credit and Saving Bank to owners of land plots and citizens qualified for housing loans is no longer sufficient.

A number of citizens, interviewed by Al Seyassah, said that the KD54,000 is not enough any more to pay building cost, particularly with the steady rise in the prices of construction material and the discrepancy in the cost of labour.

Azzam Al Raheedi, said that if the government kept the subsidised construction material prices under control, housing requirements could be met. He added that the fees and prices offered by construction contractors are constantly rising without constraint.

Zabeh Al Mutari said that subsidised construction material which the land owner has to use needs to be increased and quick measures are required to put an end to the suffering during the construction phase.

He said that the building loan is not enough anymore, and stressed the need for increasing the amount of the loan to balance the rise in prices of building and construction material and cost.

Nehar Al Mowisi stressed on the importance of carrying out a study to consider the need to increase the current value of loan, amidst the increasing complaints of land owners who voice their inability to meet the rising cost of construction material, adding that the increase must include people with limited income.

Alecso concludes conference

TUNIS, July 24, (Kuna): Executive Council of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (Alecso) last night concluded here its 50th session by approving a national plan on 'Education for all by the year 2000'.

The session, which lasted for three days and was chaired by Kuwait's Education Undersecretary Abdul Rahman Al Khodari, also reviewed conditions of the cultural heritage in Israeli-occupied Jerusalem.

Khodari, describing the closing session, described the outcome of the meetings as a "significant step on the road of joint Arab action," underlining in this respect the plan adopted to provide education for all those eligible in the Arab world by the year 2000.

In a similar address, Alecso's director-general Dr Musara Al Rawi praised efforts exerted during the meetings to reach a successful conclusion and highlighted the organisation's role as "ideological framework and cultural affinity of the Arab nation."

The session, which coincided with the 20th founding anniversary of the organisation, which approved co-ordination with Unesco and the union of historians and Alecso's budget and that of its affiliate bodies.

Work camps

GENERAL controller of scouts and camps at the youths and childhood department at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, Sulaiman Al Ashwak, stated that work camps aim at enhancing the national spirit for youths in addition to giving them the opportunity of appreciating manual work. He added that youths work camps are considered one of the activities of the modern age which constructively channel youths' energies in their leisure times.

Regarding the objectives of the 41st youth work camp which is held in Jahra, Ashwak stated that the camp aims at enhancing faith, spiritual power elements for youth in addition to improving their capabilities and talents,



Benazir's visit

Upon the visit of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, Haji Mohammad Alzal Noor, founder and president of Pakistan People Club in Kuwait, and club members welcomed the prime minister at the airport. A large number of the Pakistani community in Kuwait waved the Pakistani flag as they welcomed her. Haji Mohammad Alzal Noor met the prime minister and explained the club's activities. The prime minister was also briefed on how the PPC is helping the community and the progress of the Kashmir Fund. The efforts were appreciated.



Kims to cover specialisations

Research medical council should be set up: Rifaei

A MEDICAL council for research should be set up at the state level, the secretary-general of Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialisations (Kims), Dr Abdullah Al Rifaei said in an interview with a local daily.

Elucidating, he said that this institute should be given freedom of action in developing their charter and should be established through the contribution and co-operation of the Ministry of Public Health, Kuwait University, Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (Kfas) and Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR).

He spoke of the modalities of the plan, setting-up priorities and commented on coupling these with adequate finance.

Meanwhile, the official criticised the low-level of scientific budget allocated to scientific activities and commented that the budget constitutes about one per cent of the budget of the Ministry of Public Health. Comparatively, he said that advanced countries allocate about five per cent of their annual public budgets for these purposes.

The official praised the level of the graduates of the Kuwait University, Faculty of Medicine and said that it was comparable to their counterparts in British and American universities.

Meanwhile, the official called upon authorities on the university's administration to develop the curriculums of the Faculty of Medicine and to review the faculty's experiment in this connection.

He added that training courses should not take place in hospitals only but should be expanded to include the other health and social centres. Meanwhile, the official has criticised the administrative services at the health facilities describing such services as poor. He said that some administrative

staff at hospitals and health centres disregarded the needs of patients, and attributed it to a lack of training of administrative personnel.

He also criticised the functional duplication among health areas, adding that this situation had adversely reflected on patients. Speaking of the future activities of the institute, Rifaei said, that the institute had set up new programmes this year which aim at covering several basic specialisations. He disclosed that the institute as of next month will begin a specialised programme on community medicine in addition to a diploma course in diabetes. He added that the institute is currently studying the feasibility of radiology. He confirmed that the institute's strategy during the next five years will be based on covering minute specialisations including orthopaedic surgery and nerves in addition to specialisations in dermatology, psychiatric diseases, ENT and optics.

Meanwhile, the official said that continued education forms the third axis of the institute, clarifying that such an axis had been applied in several shapes including the organising of scientific seminars, training courses and workshops, adding that about 500 physicians had joined continued education so far. He clarified that the institute is playing a significant role in updating and modernising data for physicians through publishing medical periodicals and brochures. He disclosed that the new plan of the institute includes among other things the construction of a new premises which will consist of several departments and divisions. He added that the relevant budget for the new buildings is estimated at about KD4.2 million — including furniture and supplies.

Food outlets to be monitored

FOLLOWING the recent alleged food-poisoning of some workers, the acting director-general at Kuwait Municipality, Sheikh Sahah Jaber Al Ali Al Sahah has issued directives to authorities to ensure that all foodstuffs and related establishments are strictly monitored.

The official's decision is intended to ensure that all food served is of the highest standards and to avoid any repetition of such cases in the future.

Meanwhile, the acting director-general said that Kuwait

Municipality is concentrating on following up the maintenance of real estates in different areas of the country. Basically, he said that the concept of the municipality is to ensure the "aesthetic look" of buildings along main streets in different areas, particularly those of the capital.

He praised the success of the first phase and praised the co-operation of owners with authorities and commented that some building owners had renovated their buildings without any call from authorities. This attitude,

he said reflects the high level of awareness of the issue among citizens.

Efforts will continue to renovate all buildings and this will cover the second phase of the project.

Meanwhile, the municipality has conducted a study on 122 historical buildings in the country which are affiliated to several authorities, including Ministry of Information, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Education and Health and Electricity and Water.

KAC to launch Far East routes

KUWAIT Airways Corporation (KAC) has recently finalised a study aimed at expanding its activities which initially incorporates the Kuwait-Singapore sector.

Making this statement to a local daily, the chairman and managing director of KAC, Ahmed Al Mishari said that this initiative will be an extension of activities in the Far East arena. Based on the outcome of this experience, it will constitute a launching point to other countries, including Indonesia, Australia and Japan.

The official said that KAC is exerting significant efforts to improve its services which include ensuring schedule timing of flights, special meals and gifts to children aboard its planes and according specialised meals. A special unit has also been formed to follow up on requirements of first class passengers and business class passengers, Mishari said.

The corporation has provided its foreign offices and terminals with qualified employees experienced in all ticketing aspects and other areas related to air travel.

To encourage national tourism movement, the corporation is seeking to set up an international company in co-operation with Kuwait's Touristic Enterprise Company (TEC) and Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA).

In a further move designed to upgrade the image of KAC and provide passenger comfort, the official said that KAC intends to redecorate several jets, including Boeing 747 and 727 which have been in service for over ten years.

He said that the new decor has been recommended by an international consulting company. Initially, he said that the process will cover Boeing 747 jets, the first of which had departed for Singapore for this purpose and for undergoing some technical adjustments. The jet will be serviced in a period of 70 days and another will leave for Singapore for the same purpose, to be followed by an Airbus and lastly, Boeing 767, which is the latest jet owned by KAC.

The change in decor will include seats of first class passengers which will add a touch of class to the decor, the official said.

Meanwhile, the official said that this summer, 650 extra flights had been organised, with 300 extra flights on the Kuwait/Cairo sector, 65 Kuwait/Amman, 61 Kuwait/Istanbul, 21 Kuwait/Malaga, 33 Kuwait/Damascus and 35 Kuwait/London.

Additionally, regular flights had been increased during this period, particularly between Kuwait/Cairo and New York in addition to resumption of movement on seasonal routes, including Malaga, Nice and Istanbul, Mishari said.

Youth kills sister in Dhahr

A YOUTH who killed his sister yesterday at the Al Dhahr area, gave himself up to the police, a local daily reported.

Police at the Al Reeqa Police Station, where the youth surrendered, is undertaking investigations, though no details have been given.

Meanwhile, an old woman died at the Social Care House affiliated to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.

The cause of death is attributed to the failure of the airconditioning units which resulted in temperatures soaring in the facility.

New department

KUWAIT, July 24, (Kuna): State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed yesterday issued a decision to transfer his office into a department.

He also issued a resolution appointing Ambassador Ahmad Al Fahad director of Sheikh Nasser's office.

From the courts

3 years RI for forged cheque

A DEFENDANT identified as "W" was sentenced to three years rigorous imprisonment by Kuwait's Criminal Court, to be followed by deportation from the country.

The court was told that the accused who worked as an employee at a local bank had forged a cheque for an amount of KD20,000.

The defendant had stolen a cheque from the foreign remittance department and endorsed it in favour of his wife who was going to travel to her country and had asked her to deposit it in her account in her country.

However, when the wife arrived, she found no cheque and immediately contacted her husband who told her that he had taken the cheque from her bag prior to her travel. After three days, the wife returned to Kuwait and informed one of her kin and gave him a photocopy of the cheque. In turn, the kin informed the head of the foreign remittances department who found that the cheque was forged and summoned the defendant who claimed that he was joking with his wife.

However, the court saw no "jest" and considered his action criminal. Auto-theft gang arrested: CID men in Kuwait City have arrested a four-member gang charged with auto-theft, one of them is a Kuwaiti and three are of Jordanian nationality.

Earlier investigations had revealed that the suspects would steal cars and replace their number plates with stolen ones and forge ownership data, while the Kuwaiti partner obtained a Triptique for the stolen car from one of Auto Clubs, then the car would be sold in an Arab country.

Detectives in a neighbouring Arab country located a stolen car parked in the customs zone and subsequent investigations revealed that the car had been stolen from a doctor in Kuwait while parked in the hospital parking lot.

The four-member ring was referred to the relevant security authorities along with the material found in their possession.

Five years for attempted assault: The Criminal Court sentenced a man to five years imprisonment with hard labour followed by deportation from the country.

The man working as a farash at one of the hospitals was accused of sexually assaulting a female patient.

One of the nurses working at the hospitals asked him to assist her in transferring a female patient who had just been through a successful operation, to her assigned room at the hospital. He came back after a period of time and tried to uncover the female patient and sexually assault her.

In the court, the convict denied charges and stated that he had come back to the room, even though he knew that this was not allowed unless he was accompanied by a nurse, in order to pick up some pies from the cooler inside the room. He added that he saw that the female patient was partially uncovered and all he did was cover her with a hospital blanket. The lady stated that the accused had tried to sexually assault her.

Six months for fraud: The Misdemeanour Court sentenced a man to six-months imprisonment in absentia on charges of fraud.

The plaintiff claimed that the accused had informed him that he could reduce the plaintiff's residence fine from KD 2,400 to KD 600 through his influence at the Immigration Department.

The plaintiff gave the accused his passport and KD 400. However, after quite a while, the plaintiff complained to the police who discovered that the accused had left the country.

KD150 fine for slander: The Court of Misdemeanours has fined one man KD150 for slandering the reputation of two single ladies living in the same building where they lived with his friend, whom the court acquitted of making advances to one of the ladies.

The suspects told the court that they saw too many cars circling the area in a suspicious way and that one of them once caught a man leaving the apartment of one and when he threatened to call the police he begged him to let him go.

The court found the first defendant guilty of public disparage and the other defendant innocent.

Bank employees get 3 years: The Criminal Court sentenced two men to three years imprisonment with hard labour followed by deportation from the country.

The two convicts were able to forge a savings book on an account belonging to one of the customers and were able to withdraw a total of KD1,150 from the same account. The forgery was easy to carry out for both convicts since they worked at the same bank.

The original owner of the account was surprised when finding out that his balance was decreasing instead of increasing. He complained to the bank manager where both convicts worked. An investigation conducted by the bank manager revealed the forgery and the case was referred to security forces for further investigations. Upon questioning both convicts confessed their crime in front of the court.

Armed robbery for KD 10

A COMMERCIAL store situated in the Al Jahra area was the scene of an armed robbery recently, a local daily reported.

Three unidentified men driving a Cadillac car drove up to the store and after shooting an Indian worker rifled the cash-box. Their "over-kill" netted them just KD10.

Personnel of the Criminal Evidence Department, Crime Theatre personnel, and a number of security officers are investigating the incident and interviewing the injured worker.

Firemen sustain serious burns

THE firemen sustained serious burns while trying to extinguish a fire that broke out in a private residence in Sabah Al Salem district yesterday.

The deputy director of the fire-fighting section at the Kuwait Fire Department Jaseem Al Mansouri said that investigations were in progress to uncover details on how the fire broke out.

He added that both the casualties were rushed to Mubarak Hospital for treatment of first-degree and second-degree burns.

No increase in bread prices

HEAD of Distribution and Marketing Department at Kuwait Mills and Bakeries Company, Mutlaq Al Zayer said that the company exerts all possible efforts to provide consumers with bread around the hour.

Interviewed by a local daily, he added that the company has no intention to increase the price of bread currently. He pointed out that the company is being supported very well by the government.

He said that there are nine bakeries distributed in Kuwaiti areas to provide residents with mechanically made bread around the hour. He added that the company provides consumers with an unlimited amount of bread.

He added that sliced bread prices were low as compared to imported bread. He added that the company has no intention to implement the daily subscription system and take orders for home delivery, since bread is available around the hour.

He pointed out that Kuwait Mechanical Bakeries has a daily production capacity of more than 2 million loaves and that the company is willing to increase its production capacity if necessary.

He said the company was not affected by the international increase in the wheat prices.

Kuwait to exploit commercial potential of algae

Biotechnology provides new insights

FOLLOWING remarkable breakthroughs in the field of algal biotechnology, Kuwait is set to manipulate the naturally occurring chemical compounds in algae for commercial benefits. The importance of this initiative lies in generating natural algal products in sufficient quantities to replace artificial or synthetic chemical products now being marketed," said Dr Redha Al Hasan, Associate Professor in the Department of Botany and Microbiology, Faculty of Science, in an interview with 'The Researcher'.

The global success of this technology has focussed world attention on the commercial potentialities of algae for food and feed. This aspect has been investigated by Dr Hasan in his recently completed research on various kinds of algae available in Kuwait. Based on the synthesis of natural algal components, the study explored the potential value of algae as a consumable and as a pharmaceutical resource.

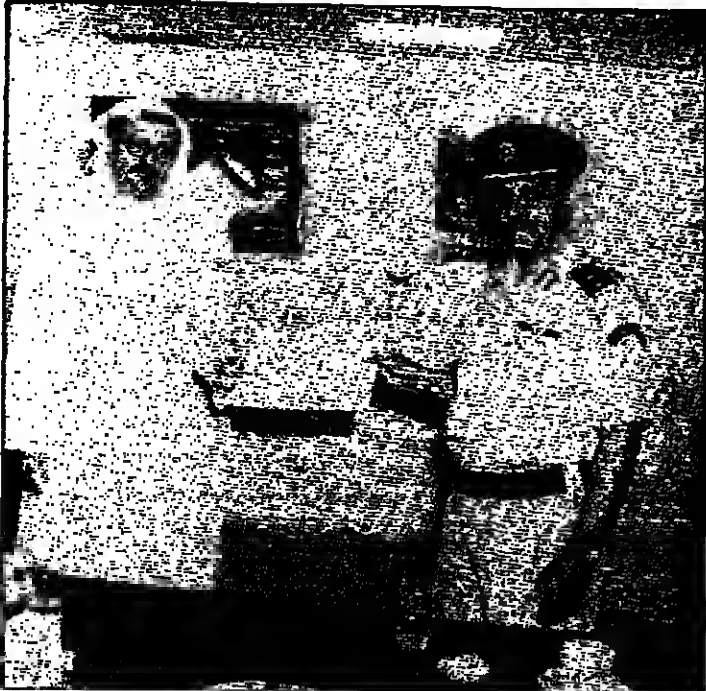
While investigating coastal algae in Al Khiran area, the distinct orange colour of surrounding water caught Dr Hasan's attention. This led him to believe that the algae probably produced chemicals as a protective shield against the harsh climatic conditions to which they were exposed. Following his investigations, he isolated, purified and grew several microalgae under laboratory conditions to gain new insights into their chemical composition, tolerance and resistance.

Citing *Dunaliella salina* as an example of extreme halotolerant eukaryotic chlorophyte, Dr Hasan drew attention to the microalgae's ability to thrive in water too salty to support any, but a few strains of halophilic bacteria and halotolerant cyanobacteria. "In addition, the ability of this microalgae to produce glycerol, an osmoregulatory solute, allows us to understand the biological process by which solar energy is conserved to produce chemicals of commercial value," he said.

Dunaliella salina yields at least three products of commercial value — glycerol 30 per cent (the bulk chemical), B carotene 8 per cent (the fine chemical) and a high protein 29 per cent (containing feed material). Of these, B carotene is a pro-vitamin A compound which has now replaced synthetic chemicals for food colouring or as additives, he added.

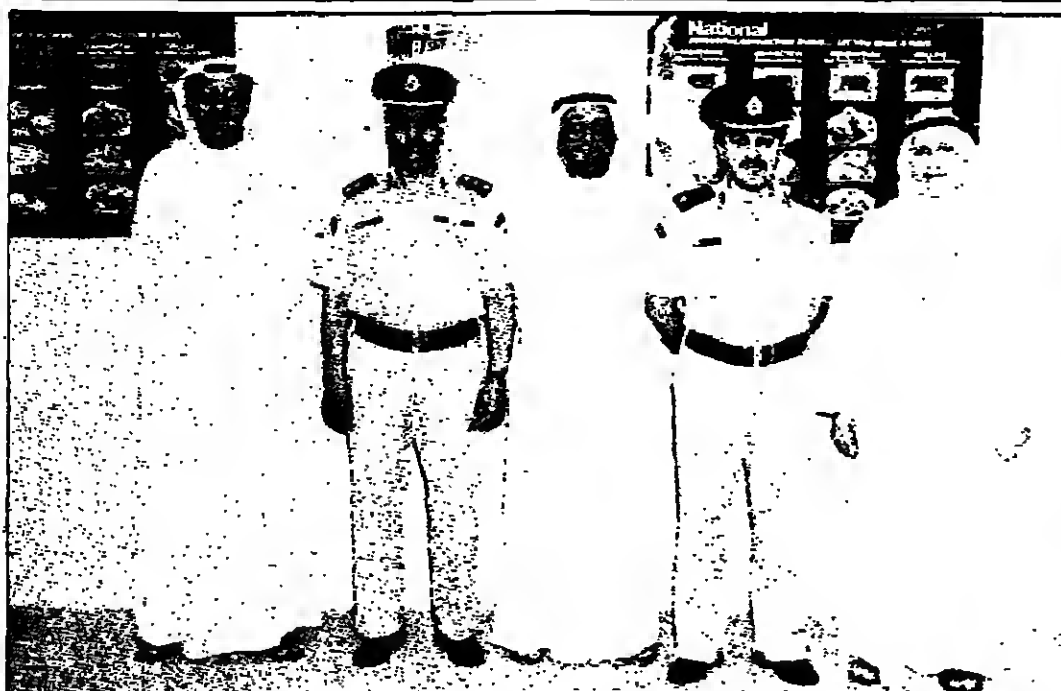
Observing the optimal growth of the microalgae in water with salinity ranging between 2.5-5 per cent, Dr Hasan found that carotene:chlorophyll ratio increased with increasing salinity though the chloroplast tend to degenerate. Also the cell's total lipid content decreased with increasing salinity. On the basis of his research Dr Hasan identified the cyanobacteria and bacillariophyta which could withstand

wide salinity ranges though their growth, photosynthetic activity, lipid composition and fatty acid constituents were affected. Expanding the scope of his study, Dr Hasan subjected other microorganisms from such extreme environment, e.g. *Anabaena constricta*, *Phormidium Corium*, *Phormidium Jekellianum*, *Spirulina Subsalina*, *Synechocystis SP* (Cynobacteria) and *Norichloa SP* (Bacillariophyta), to laboratory investigations for possible commercial exploitation. Presently, Food and Agriculture Organisation, (FAO), is spearheading the trend in growing microalgae under artificial environmental conditions to tap their protein content to feed the world's poor.



Roumi visits National

The assistant director-general of the General Traffic Administration Col Salem Al Roumi paid a visit to National Company on behalf of the director-general Brigadier Abdul Hameed Haji Abdul Raheem. He was accompanied by director of traffic operations Lt Colonel Mustafa Jumaa. They were received by the owner of the company Essa Hussein



Al Yousifi. Col Roumi thanked officials of the company for their efforts and contribution in honouring traffic men. Roumi handed certificates of appreciation to owners of the company and some of its officials.

Airline sued Plaintiff awarded KD1,005

A JUDICIAL ruling seemed to be the first of its kind in Kuwait awarded compensation of KD1,005 to a plaintiff who had sued the airline for the delay in the arrival of their flight to Kuwait.

Initially, the Court of First Instance was told by the plaintiff that the unnamed airline had committed to bring his family at 12:00 noon to Kuwait, but the flight arrived 50 hours later.

Harassment

During this period, he claimed that his family were put through undue harassment as they were confined to the aircraft without any proper alternatives nor any proper explanation for this inordinate delay.

After deliberations, the court rejected the claim and consequently the plaintiff approached the Court of Higher Appeal.

The Cassation Department at the Higher Court of Appeals who reviewed the petition did not concur with the findings of the Court of First Instance and ruled that the airline was at fault for not providing relief to the family during this extended period of time.

National Council elects committees

By Lima Al Khalafawi
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT'S National Council meeting yesterday was held to elect members of the 11 committees which will be empowered to undertake their respective responsibilities as specifically defined in the council's charter.

The session, which is ongoing (at the time of going to press) have elected members to be representatives of the following three committees:

- Committee to review the experiences of the past parliament.
- Committee for Internal Affairs and Defence.
- Committee for Complaints and Allegations.

A total of thirty members were elected to the first committee — 25 being elected and five appointed ministers.

Following are the names along with the votes tallied.

Name	No. of votes
Abdullah Al Hajri	60
Mohammed Al Mishan	59
Saqer Al Sudan	58
Abdul Rahman Al Ahmad	57
Mohammed Al Haddad	57
Jouman Al Hariti	56
Abdul Karim Al Johadi	55
Eissa Al Refai	54
Hamoud Al Jahri	54
Munazil Al Eniazi	54
Tukaim Al Tukaim	53
Abdullah Al Omar	53
Abdul Latif Al Bahar	53
Kadem Bu Abass	51

Abdul Aziz Assoussi	51
Jabreem Bou Rishi	51
Abdul Fatah Marafie	50
Yusuf Al Nior	48
Adel Al Rasheed	44
Bader Al Bisher	42
Hadi Al Huwala	41
Saoud Al Fares	41
Mazrouk Al Hebani	41
Khalaf Al Enaizi	40
Hamad Al Twaiz	40

Minister of Interior
State Minister for Cabinet Affairs
State Minister for National Council Affairs
State Minister for Municipal Affairs
Minister of Health.

The second committee members elected to the Internal Affairs and Defence are as follows:

Name	No. of votes
Rashed Al Houbada	43
Mohammed Al Muhaimil	43
Mubarak Khurana	43
Jaman Al Hurati	42
Sadoun Al Otaihi	42
Mohammed Al Hajraf	39
Ashour Al Sabakh	38
Jassem Al Amir	38
Khalaf Al Onaizi	33

Members elected to the third committee — (recommended):

Mohammed Musallim	
Jawad Al Matrouk	
Raja Al Azezi	
M. Al Azezi	
Abdulla Al Khodair	
Ali Al Omar	

Jassem Al Amir was appointed by an Amiri Decree issued today. The decree stipulated that Al Amir will replace Mishal Al Habish who had tendered his resignation.

Speaking to the Arab Times, Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, state minister for cabinet affairs said that his recent visit to the African countries, including Egypt in connection with the recent developments between Kuwait and Iraq was directed to carry messages from HH the Amir to leaders of these nations explaining Kuwait's standpoint.

He went on to state that in all his meetings with these heads of state and other officials had positively responded to the Amir's suggestions of formulating a special committee which would be empowered to go into the framework of delineating Iraq-Kuwaiti borders.

The minister commented that practical solutions to this issue should emanate from the Arab League. The present situation has saddened the hearts of all Arabs and they are all in earnest looking forward to a speedy and amicable situation through the mediation of all Arab dignitaries and parties.

Opec

(Continued from Page 1)

"aiming for the \$25" mark. And Gabou's Jean Ping said he would like to see the target "higher than \$18." Under the Opec proposal, Kuwait and the UAE each would hold their output to 1.5 million barrels a day. Kuwait's current production cap is 1.5 million barrels a day, and the UAE's is 1.1 million barrels.

Under the plan, only the UAE would see its supply quota go up, the other 12 nations would remain at current levels.

While the official summer meeting opens on Thursday, its eight-member monitoring panel will hold talks a day earlier.

Equador's Energy and Mines Minister Diego Tamariz and Qatar's Interior Minister Abdullah Bin Khalifa Al Thani have both pledged commitment to securing higher oil prices at this week's meeting of the Opec conference.

Output falls
Crude oil output by producers outside of Opec fell 320,000 barrels per day (bpd) in the second quarter to 32.76 mln bpd from 33.06 mln the previous quarter, a Reuters survey showed.

The drop, largely due to a 29-year low in crude production in the US and further declines in the Soviet Union, eased a world oil glut caused largely by Opec overproduction.

The drop was too little to completely offset the glut, but if it had occurred, prices would have gone lower," said Scott Jones, president of AUS Consultants in Pennsylvania.

Japan's need

Mounting tensions between Iraq and Kuwait have re-ignited concerns that Japan depends too heavily on the politically shaky Middle East for oil. Japan's vital energy supply, industry analysts said.

Japan imports virtually all its oil, with 70 per cent coming from the Middle East. "While ebullience are slim that tensions will develop into an armed conflict, the Japanese government is likely to continue its efforts to reduce its reliance on oil," said Naoshi Kojima, chief economist at the Institute of Middle Eastern Economies.

According to the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), Japan's dependence on oil will drop to 46 per cent of total energy needs by the year 2010 from 57.3 per cent in 1988. MITI sees higher reliance on nuclear power.

However, strong local opposition to nuclear power has boosted Japan's dependence on oil and on oil from the Middle East in particular, analysts said.

Japan lacks sufficient nuclear power plants and has yet to develop substantial alternative energy sources to wean itself off heavy dependence on oil, analysts said.

Lawyer jailed for abetting client escape

THE criminal court sentenced a lawyer to one month in jail for abetting a sentenced convict evade arrest and imprisonment after pleading for him before the bench.

The court heard that the lawyer had asked his client to wait outside the courtroom in case the case against him ended in upholding the sentence, which indeed was the case.

Then the lawyer left the courtroom quickly and asked the client to wait in his office where he joined him later to tell him to flee the country.

Kuwait

(Continued from Page 1)

would deflect attention from the real challenges facing them. Jordanian monarch King Hussein has expressed his optimism of a near solution to the Iraqi-Kuwaiti differences in the framework of Arab unity for the interest of the Arab nation.

In a statement broadcast by the Jordanian television last night after his return from a few hours visit to Cairo, King Hussein said he will exert all his efforts for the interest of the Arab nation and affirmed that the issue should be resolved quickly in the framework of Arab unity.

King Fahd briefed the Saudi cabinet last night on ways of containing any conflict that may erupt between Arab countries within fraternal and friendly relations, Saudi Press Agency said.

The sovereign said that efforts underway aim at overcoming difficulties that are experienced by the Arab nation.

The agency said that King Fahd informed the Saudi cabinet on the results of his meetings and contacts with Arab leaders including King Hussein and Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad.

The five-member Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) yesterday mandated its current chairman Algerian President Chadli Benjedid to mediate a settlement of the dispute between Kuwait and Iraq.

A communique issued at the end of two-day summit talks between the AMU leaders said it was decided that the Algerian President would send a special envoy representing the union to Iraq and Kuwait.

Kuwait's Chamber of Commerce and Industry today issued a statement calling for containing the Kuwaiti-Iraqi dispute by not allowing foreign circles to get involved in it.

The statement, signed by the chamber's president Abdelaziz Al Saqer, said negotiating a settlement for the sudden crisis must be dealt with behind closed doors and by experienced and qualified men.

"Around the negotiating table,

not only the tension can be defused but also the whole problem which caused the tectonic to arise," the statement stressed.

While underlining that Kuwait has never acted on its own or without Arab consensus, the statement emphasised that the Kuwaiti people fully stand behind HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince, especially when the sovereignty of Kuwait is in question.

Meanwhile, several professional associations expressed their unequivocal support for the Kuwaiti leadership, rejecting all attempts to undermine the dignity of the country and the people of Kuwait.

A joint statement issued by the Kuwaiti Artists Association, the Kuwaiti Association for Formal Arts, and five theatrical associations said the situation entails sorting out the problem within the framework of the Arab League as Kuwait has emphasised.

The statement expressed hope that the Iraqi government would review its position and co-operate with Arab efforts to end the crisis quickly and quietly.

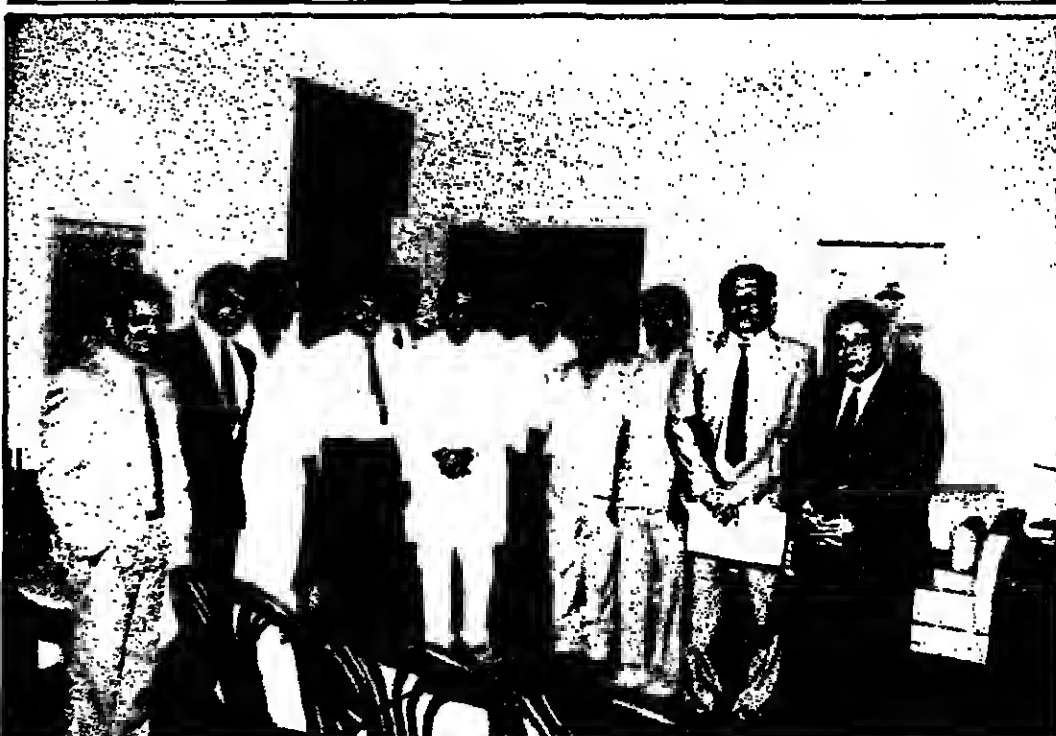
Expressing shock at the content of the Iraqi memo to the Arab League, the statement said this has eliminated present Arab feelings of unity and pan-Arab solidarity which have surfaced following the latest Arab summit in Baghdad.

In a similar statement, board members of co-operative societies and their union sent two cables to HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince reiterating their support for the Kuwaiti leadership.

The cables said the allegations of Iraq against Kuwait, on a mutually acceptable basis.

He added that "this is certainly being helped by the Arab League's efforts towards this end," in reference to the mediation efforts of the League's chief Chadli Kilihi.

Syria, Baghdad's arch-enemy struck a neutral note over the confrontation between Kuwait and Iraq.



IAPF delegates with Indian Civil Aviation Minister Arif Khan (centre) and Indian Ambassador A.K. Budhiraja (far right).

Indian Air Passengers Forum meets visiting minister Khan

Air India fares discussed

THE frequent fare hikes of Air India on the Kuwait-India sector, especially on the Kuwait-Trivandrum route has been brought to the attention of the Indian Civil Aviation Minister, Arif Mohammed Khan, by a delegation representing the Indian Air Passengers Forum. IAPF is an apex body of prominent cultural organisations in Kuwait such as the United Malayalees Organisation and its affiliates, and the general council of Indian nationals here to study the structure of the Air India fare.

There will be an announcement during the forthcoming session of the parliament regarding the Air India tariff as the report of the parliamentary commission studying Air India fares is expected before the session starting on the 7th of August (1990), said the minister, "it will be a comprehensive one and acceptable to all."

In addition to the unjustified fare hikes of Air India, the discussion centred on the upgrading of Trivandrum Airport. It was pointed out to the Minister that more than 20 international flights per week were being operated from Trivandrum and the inflow of passengers and cargo there was higher than that of the Madras International Airport. Arif Khan revealed that the main stumbling block in the upgrading of Trivandrum Airport was lack of funds which had to be allotted by the Planning Commission. To this, IAPF put forward a suggestion that the Keralaites in the Gulf States were ready to invest a major share of the amount required for the develop-

ment work of Trivandrum Airport. This investment, which can be made on terms mutually agreed, should be used exclusively for the development of Trivandrum Airport.

"Right then Trivandrum will be made an International Airport," responded the minister heartily. "I shall study this proposal and advise you on it."

IAPF requested the minister that interim relief be provided for the Keralaite community from the exorbitant airfare to Trivandrum, till such time as a comprehensive solution can be reached.

Many other hardships suffered by the Trivandrum bound passengers were also pointed out to the minister. Other requests made were that the baggage allowance should be raised to 30kg and that the IATA facilities such as 14-60 day excursion fare, labour fare, family fare, youth fare, etc., which will bring down the airfare by almost 50 per cent should also be implemented in the Kuwait-India sector. The minister lent a sympathetic ear to all the grievances.

In the meeting, IAPF was represented by Aby Thomas Varadachandran, P.K. Ismail, Abraham Varghese, P.A. Menon, C.V. Jacob and Ben Chandy. The Indian government was represented by the honourable minister of civil aviation, the External Affairs Joint Secretary K.P. Fabian and the Indian ambassador to Kuwait. Air India was represented by P.R. Kanga and the newly appointed manager for Kerala George Tharakan.

NRIs want to participate in key shortage areas

THE NRI Investors Forum hosted a dinner at the Meridien Hotel on July 23, in honour of the visiting Minister of Energy and Civil Aviation, Arif Mohammed Khan.

In a short speech welcoming the minister Rajan Nireswalla, acting chairman requested the minister to look into one of the points in the joint communique presented to the government of India. This point referred to NRIs being allowed to participate in power projects, bearing in mind the acute shortage of power supply around the country. The minister in his reply stated that in the eighth 5 Year Plan, an amount of Rs 138,000 crores could be required for increasing the electric power supply whereas the resources at present available with government was around Rs 70,000 crores. To make up this deficit it was recently agreed to open up this section of a core industry to private entrepreneurs which presumably would include NRIs.

One extremely important point in this connection was that any potential entrepreneurs will not need to make any expensive feasibility studies, etc. The government will conduct all the studies concerned and have such projects ready-made on the shelf so that once approval is given work can commence very quickly. Further, the licensing period will be extended from 20 to 30 years and the debt equity ratio required would be 4 to 1 instead of the present 1 to 1. These incentives will no doubt be very attractive not only to NRIs in Kuwait but also from other parts of the Gulf and the rest of the world. It is hoped that government will take the same sort of initiative in road building and housing which are the other key shortage areas.

Nireswalla also raised the ubiquitous Air-India subject. While he appreciated that the decision to increase fares was not entirely in the hands of Air-India, it would appear that since Air-India's revenues increased as a result they felt that it was not the airlines concern. The fact still remains that after discounts, etc. which are still available, a person from Kuwait can go to Boston, USA and back for less than

KD200 via one of the Gulf states. If this be the case, there is absolutely no rationalising of a fare of over KD260 for Kuwait-Trivandrum-Kuwait. Air-India officials keep saying that there are various reasons for this but to an average traveller, especially the lower middle class and poorer sections, it is not possible to understand how a fare could be less for travelling almost 3 or 4 times the distance.

In his reply the minister stated that a committee of senior officials had been appointed by government to study the question of rationalisation of air fares in the Gulf. This study has now been completed and report is to be presented to government very shortly. The minister expressed a hope that it will be tabled in parliament at the beginning of the next session. It must be a point of great relief to all Indians in the Gulf that the Indian government is at last taking their representations seriously.

Khan also mentioned the liberalisation in the establishment of air taxi companies. Now all that is required is that the aircraft used by an air taxi company must accommodate at least 15 persons and there is no maximum limit which means the air taxi companies can even use Boeing 747s for their services. Also, all airports are now opened to air taxis and there will be no restrictions on flight timings. This again should be a welcoming news for NRIs. The general impression given by the minister was very positive and his smooth and affable manner made it very easy for many members to converse with him on a one to one basis. Other guests at the dinner were Arun Budhiraja, ambassador of India, R. Mukhija, Counsellor, R.P. Singh, First Secretary (Commercial), K.P. Fabian, Joint Secretary (Gulf) Ministry of External Affairs and the prominent businessman Dr K.T.B. Menon.

K.A. Valsan, secretary of the NRI Investors Forum then proposed a vote of thanks in which he expressed satisfaction and appreciation with the various comments made by the minister and hoped that on his return to Delhi he will continue his efforts towards a common goal of encouraging NRI investment in India.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

YOU cannot shake hands with a clenched fist — Indira Gandhi, Indian prime minister (1917-1984).

Soviet threat gone

Allies debate military cuts

LONDON, (Reuters): Soviet tanks are pulling out across East Europe at the end of the cold war, but new battle lines are being drawn in the West's corridors of power as NATO allies debate how to cut their own military spending.

Anxious to reap the much-heralded "peace dividend" and rein in stubbornly high budget deficits, Western leaders are locked in skirmishes with their defence chiefs over the shape and cost of military forces for the rest of the 1990s.

But, even if the conflicting interests of the military, defence contractors and finance ministries can be reconciled, it is already clear the initial savings will be modest.

At the worst, the need to redeploy the Western alliance's troops stationed in West Germany could spell an extra cost burden and higher unemployment as armies are run down and bases closed.

"Potentially we have the chance of halving military expenditure in every NATO country over the next 10 years," said Somnath Sen, an economist at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri) in Sweden.

But that is not realistic... by the year 2000 we could just be back to 1980 levels before the big arms build-up."

In the 1980s, Ronald Reagan pushed US military spending as high as 6.5 per cent of gross national product, double the level of NATO's European members. Average cuts in NATO of 2.3 per cent a year over the next 10 years would only turn the clock back to before the Reagan build-up.

Since the Berlin Wall crumbled last November, Western politicians have been eager to cash in the peace dividend and cut the estimated \$460 billion the NATO alliance spent in 1989 running its forces and buying new military hardware.

But only in recent weeks — as NATO's historic London summit declared the end of the cold war and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev dropped his objections to a united Germany being part of the alliance — have hard figures emerged.

The prospect is for modest rather than spectacular cuts.

In the United States, defence cuts are central to efforts to cut the 1991 budget deficit, with the Senate, House and White House now discussing a reduction of \$10 to 16 billion in military spending from the \$306.9 billion "baseline" projection which would keep outlays in pace with inflation.

Cuts

But the cuts, which have to be decided before the US 1991 fiscal year starts on Oct 1, would be far less severe than those after the Vietnam War when spending fell from 9.5 per cent of output to below five per cent in the ensuing backlash.

Defence Secretary Dick Cheney is due to decide soon whether to scrap or proceed with three projects: a new light attack helicopter, a new class of navy destroyer and the SSN-21 Seawolf attack submarine. Force strength will be cut back sharply.

Economists at First Boston in New York estimate that each one billion dollars of reduced defence spending eliminates 30,000 to 35,000 jobs in the US economy. A \$25 billion cut would increase the unemployment rate by half a percentage point and, indirectly, raise the overall budget deficit \$15 billion.

In West Germany, Chancellor Helmut Kohl has agreed with Gorbachev that troops in a united Germany will be limited to 370,000, baring a large cut from the present Bundeswehr's 495,000. The ruling conservative alliance in Bonn is considering pushing 1991 spending below 50 billion marks (\$30.5 billion) from 52.6 billion (\$32 billion) this year.

In France, an intense battle between Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevènement and Finance Minister Pierre Berégovoy has been raging. The military establishment, not integrated into NATO's command structure, remains unconvinced that Gorbachev is cutting Soviet defence spending enough but last week it lost the battle for a four per cent increase in its 1991 budget.

The overall French defence budget will rise by three per cent next year, but there will be a cut in the amount of money available for buying new weapons after inflation. The real peace dividend, Berégovoy said, will not come before 1992.

In Britain, military chiefs met Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher last Friday to discuss a review of strategy set in train by Secretary of State for Defence Tom King's controversial "Options for Change" paper. With the defence budget already running £600 million (\$1.0 billion) above forecast due to inflation, the pressure is on for cuts.

But bringing home the 55,000-strong British Army of the Rhine and families will be expensive, as new barracks have to be built, and service chiefs are worried it could sap morale.

Defence Procurement Minister Alan Clark has argued that £24 billion (\$43.7 billion) could be saved over 10 years but according to his plan seven billion of that would be reinvested to "sharpen the teeth" of forces to tackle less predictable threats away from old NATO battle lines in Europe.

In the Netherlands, which has 5,500 men on West German soil, the centre-left government plans to cut the defence budget by a real one per cent over the next five years and Defence Minister Rutus Ter Beek has announced that the number of ministry personnel will be reduced by 15 per cent by end-1995.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1593 — France's King Henry IV becomes a Roman Catholic.

1689 — France's King Louis XIV declares war on Britain.

1792 — Austria's Duke of Brunswick issues manifesto threatening destruction of Paris if France's royal family is harmed.

1830 — France's King Charles X issues ordinances controlling the press, dissolving legislative chambers and changing electoral system.

1878 — China's first diplomatic mission to United States arrives in Washington.

1907 — Japan obtains protectorate over Korea.

1920 — French forces occupy Damascus, Syria; Greeks under King Alexander occupy Adrianople.

1934 — Chancellor Engelbert Dollfuss is assassinated in unsuccessful Nazi coup attempt in Austria.

1943 — Benito Mussolini is forced to resign as premier of Italy during World War II.

1956 — Italian liner Andrea Doria and Swedish ship Stockholm collide off coast of New England, and 50 lives are lost.

1963 — United States, Soviet Union and Britain conclude treaty prohibiting nuclear testing in atmosphere, space or under water.

1968 — Pope Paul VI bans all artificial birth control methods for Roman Catholics.

1971 — Doctor Christiana Barnard transplants two lungs and heart into man in Cape Town, South Africa, and the operation is described as successful.

1973 — Federal judge rules that US government must halt bombing of Cambodia on grounds it is "unauthorised and unlawful."

1986 — Masked Sikh extremists shoot and kill 15 people, 14 of them Hindus, in ambush on bus at railroad crossing in India's Punjab state.

1989 — Poland's Solidarity leader Lech Walesa tells communist President Wojciech Jaruzelski he still opposes a coalition government.



Youths stoning Israeli troops in the territories.

Conditions in Gaza Strip grim

People turn to Islam

GAZA CITY, Occupied Gaza Strip (CSM): Since the Palestinian uprising began on the dusty streets in front of his home in Gaza's Jabaliya refugee camp, Iyad, a father of 12, has had his share of troubles.

His eldest son was killed two weeks after the intifada began while leading a stone-throwing attack against an Israeli military compound. Another son received three gunshot wounds, while nine other children have either been beaten, tear-gassed, or both in clashes with Israeli soldiers.

Following his own run-in with Israeli authorities this year, Iyad was forced to sell his taxi to raise money to pay steep new intifada taxes, leaving the family with no means of support.

"It has been difficult," he says.

Iyad represents but one slice of the grim life that pervades this unwelcome stretch of coastal land, first occupied by Israel in 1967. In December 1987, a combustible mix of poverty and hatred of Israel's 20-year occupation was ignited in Jabaliya by a restive young generation of Palestinians. The rebellion that followed quickly spread through Gaza and to the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Thirty months later, the conditions that produced the intifada have grown dangerously worse, creating new hardships and nourishing political extremism that threatens to put a settlement to the long Israeli-Palestinian conflict completely out of reach.

"Living conditions have grown worse and people have grown increasingly alienated," says an official of the United Nations Relief and Works Administration (UNRWA).

Driving through this 28-by-5 mile swatch of despair, a visitor looks in vain for a respite from deprivation. Nearly 700,000 people are packed into Gaza, over 60 per cent in squalid UN refugee camps.

Even before the intifada, overcrowding produced grinding poverty. In the past 30 months, matters have steadily deteriorated.

Up to 60,000 Gazans — just over half the territory's work force — once earned their living working at the manual construction and service jobs in Israel that produced most of Gaza's income. But tight new intifada-related restrictions have cut by one-third the number of Gazans allowed to cross into Israel.

With fewer jobs and with almost no

economic activity in Gaza to fall back on, per capita income has dropped by nearly half since the start of the uprising, putting many Gazans at the financial breaking point, according to the UNRWA source.

Yousef, an electrician with two children, used to earn \$40 a day working in Israel. His travel pass to Israel now revoked because he has participated in anti-Israeli demonstrations, Yousef

says he now earns between \$5 and \$10 doing odd jobs in Gaza.

"I get by," he says unconvincedly.

"I have to."

Economic hardship has been aggravated by collective punishments imposed by Israel to control the uprising, including lengthy curfews. Worst of all, Gazans say, are the huge tax bills — often up to four times normal rates — which have become a major weapon

in Israel's arsenal.

Nor has Gaza suffered at the hands of Israel alone. The Palestine Liberation Organisation, according to a senior PLO official here, donates only \$2 to Gaza for every \$5 to the West Bank.

To ease the suffering, Gazans have loosened their embrace of the PLO and increasingly turned to Muslim fundamentalism.

"Who can rescue us?" asks a Jabaliya mother, voicing a despair that has become almost universal here. "Only Allah can help us."

The shifting balance of political power in Gaza was graphically illustrated last week when fundamentalists won an upset victory in elections for UNRWA's workers' committee, long a stronghold of secular Palestinian nationalism.

With 4,200 UNRWA employees, the elections provided the largest poll since the start of the uprising, prompting speculation that, if they agreed to participate, Muslim factions could win in elections called for by a year-old Israeli peace initiative.

"It confirms a trend," says an Israeli Army source, who estimates that more than half of Gaza residents support either the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) or Islamic Jihad.

Unlike the PLO, which advocates a two-state (Arab and Jewish) solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Muslim fundamentalists demand an Islamic state, while some Islamic extremists advocate expelling Jews from Palestine.

So far, Hamas and the Islamic Jihad have operated independently. But Gaza sources say younger activists are pressing for a union that would strengthen the hold of the Muslim leaders.

"With peace prospects getting to nil, one would expect that there will be a continuing change toward religious fundamentalism," says Haidar Abd Ashraf, head of the Red Crescent Society.

"It means the thinking of the people is going toward Islam as a way of life," adds a Gaza journalist of the UNRWA election results. "I expect that someday, not far in the future, Muslim fundamentalists will dominate Gaza."

In a glossy promotional booklet issued on the eve of the intifada, Israel's civil administration, which runs the territories, took credit for improving living conditions in Gaza and the West Bank.

Spain withdraws ambassador

Cuba link to West threatened

MADRID, (Reuters): A vital diplomatic channel linking communist Cuba and the West is threatened by a continuing row between Fidel Castro's government and Madrid over a group of asylum-seeking Cubans holed up in the Spanish embassy in Havana.

Castro has refused to grant free passage out of Cuba to the 18 people sheltering in the embassy and Spain has withdrawn its ambassador to Havana in response to Cuban statement describing the Spanish foreign minister as ignorant.

Ambassador Antonio Serrano de Haro, who has insisted on Spain's right to grant asylum, made no statement when he arrived in Madrid on Monday, but a foreign ministry official said: "It's clear this is the most serious conflict we have with Cuba in recent times."

Accused

Serrano, accused by the Cuban authorities of acting like a "pained colonial administrator," was due to meet Foreign Minister Francisco Ordonez, about last week's verbal attack by the Cuban foreign ministry.

At the end Madrid sent five more agents of a crack police squad to beef up security at the Havana embassy after nine Cubans broke into the building early on Friday to join nine others already sheltering there.

In addition to recalling its ambassador, Spain has frozen aid and won agreement from the European

Community to suspend co-operation between the 12-nation group and Cuba.

But diplomatic sources said the confrontation effectively torpedoed recent efforts by Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez to try and steer Castro towards the democratic reforms undertaken by Eastern bloc countries.

At the weekend Madrid sent five more agents of a crack police squad to beef up security at the Havana embassy after nine Cubans broke into the building early on Friday to join nine others already sheltering there.

"With this latest incident it is unthinkable now that there could be any high-level meetings for some time to come," one European diplomat said.

Gonzalez last met Castro in April at the inauguration of Brazil's President Fernando Collor de Mello and told him Cuba must reform if it was to avoid serious social tensions.

The initiative, which diplomatic sources said was a first step towards mediation in the 30-year old impasse between Cuba and the United States, made

little headway although Gonzalez was optimistic at the time.

"I have the impression Castro will respect the intentions behind this dialogue and will reflect on what we told him that day," Gonzalez said last month, stressing the importance of not isolating Cuba.

Diplomats noted that while Spain may for now have lost a means of influencing Cuba, Castro himself risks losing what is probably his best friend in Europe.

Spain is one of the few Western nations to have maintained largely cordial relations since Castro took power in 1959, and the Caribbean island is one of its main aid beneficiaries.

The only incident was in the early 1960s when ambassador Juan Pablo de Lojendio, enraged at some critical references by Castro during one of his long televised speeches, burst in on Cuban state television studios and tried to interrupt him.

Lojendio was summarily expelled and Spain, then governed by General Francisco Franco, had to swallow the diplomatic rebuff.

Cuba is Spain's third largest debtor, owing about 750 million dollars, and is amongst its more important trading partners. Bilateral trade last year totalled 350 million dollars, the fifth largest in Latin America.

E. Germany
Unity busters
do not have
much backing

EAST BERLIN, (Reuters): Threats to bring down East Germany's coalition governments ring hollow because widespread yearning for German unity leaves little public support for disruptive pre-election tactics, analysts say.

Even if two junior parties dropped out, Premier Lothar de Maiziere could still rule with a simple majority, they say. Any ex-allies boycotting the two-thirds margin needed for a unity treaty with Bonn would be viewed as mischief-makers.

"The Social Democrats (SPD) and Liberals have nowhere to go if they ditch the government. Anyone who pulls out would be a unity buster on an issue most people don't give a damn about," a Western diplomatic analyst said.

The issue lacks drama for the average voter but is a prize for politicians — whether East Germany should declare its dissolution into a pan-German federation before or after unity elections on Dec 2.

Proclamation

Liberals and the SPD want a unification proclamation on Dec 1. This would sbout small-party rivals from parliament by applying Bonn's rule of a minimum five per cent share of the popular vote to the entire nation.

The Christian Democrats (CDU) of De Maiziere and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl want it to happen right after the vote. This would require voting under existing divergent rules in East and West, fracturing the left by slipping solely East German parties, including the communists, into Parliament.

De Maiziere says a unity declaration before the election would wipe out East Germany's negotiating identity on a pending political union treaty with Bonn.

The other side argues that only a unified electorate can properly pick a unified government.

The Volkskammer (parliament) on Sunday threw out an SPD-Liberal motion for a unity declaration before the elections.

The CDU and right-wing allies prevailed with the curious help of the communists, relegated to opposition after the 1989 popular uprising against Staliniist dictatorship.

Instead, the Volkskammer approved a CDU-crafted compromise to send the issue to the two German parliaments for a solution.

The SPD and Liberal leaders reaffirmed threats to leave the coalition.

"We expect signals of high-minded political compromise from De Maiziere or there will be no more prospects for governing together," SPD party chairman Wolfgang Thierse said Monday.

What kind of compromise was a mystery. But analysts said the Liberals and SPD's bark was worse than their bite.

Governing

If they jumped ship, De Maiziere's CDU could keep governing with a narrow majority of its 163 deputies and 38 others from conservative and Farmers Party allies.

With legislation already passed to replace communism with market economics, there is little need for a two-thirds majority, aside from approving a political union treaty, analysts say.

"And when that treaty comes up for a vote, only parties willing to be accused of derailing the unification express could afford to oppose it," a West European diplomat said.

With unemployment rocketing in the switchover to a free market, most East Germans have little patience for a political free-for-all complicating economic recovery.

Despite the coalition squabble, East German leaders have little left to say on unification since they ceded economic sovereignty to Bonn on July 1 and Kohl's diplomatic coup on unity's strategic aspects.

Flush with confidence after Kohl coaxed Soviet assent to German unity in NATO without consulting hesitant East Berlin, Bonn has now summarily drafted an all-German constitution virtually identical to the West German Basic Law.

Bonn expects East Germany to agree to the draft with little fuss. Weighing the club of money to quicken the unity pace, it knows most East Germans long for an end to the political uncertainty still deterring Western investors.

QUOTE ME

"The (cold) war is over, peace is upon us." — Civil rights activist Jesse Jackson at the first official ceremony of the Goodwill Games.

"Don't you know the Green Bay Packers? One of the best football teams of ever?" — Payne Stewart, the US PGA champion, when a British reporter asked him just what the bright blues on his clothing represented.

"He's fully recovered now, but it was a very bad Christmas for our family, and it made me realise that golf isn't that important. I used to get so involved in my golf. Now, I take it lighter." — James Spence on his father's health after suffering a heart attack.

"The Soviets know what deters and so does this president." — George Bush, speaking at the nation's MX missile arsenal.

"Our troops moved out yesterday to prevent further casualties among civilians in the area from very heavy shelling, but the (government) forces have been unable to take over." — Roland Eng, an official of the resistance force loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

"Naturally, however, the hoped-for solidarity cannot be attained unless the complexities that exist between Damascus and Baghdad, on the one hand, and between Damascus and the Palestine Liberation Organisation on the other were undone." — Al Rai Al Aam in an editorial on the Syrian-Egyptian summit.

"I am in office only because of the trust of the people and of the National Front and supporting parties. I think if there is for any reason a question mark arising from the basic rationale of my being in office, I should face it squarely." — Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

State Department reaffirms Soviet Jews' right to live in Israel: Maksoud defends move

US criticises Arab League boycott measure



Maksoud

WASHINGTON, July 24, (AP): The State Department today sharply criticised a move by the Arab League to punish companies and groups that help Jews emigrate from the Soviet Union to Israel.

But Clovis Maksoud, the League's representative here, insisted boycotts are legitimate so long as Israel and the Arabs are not at peace.

Interview
Maksoud, in an interview, also criticised the Bush administration for not declaring Jewish settlements on the West Bank and in Gaza

illegal. The Arab countries, meeting last week in Tunis, expressed concern about the flow of Jews to Israel from the Soviet Union. It is at an all-time high. According to the national conference on Soviet Jewry, 49,434 of the 49,859 Jews who left the Soviet Union in the first six months of the year went to Israel.

Directed
The Arab League foreign ministers directed the League's Boycott Office to look into extending its boycott of firms that do business

with Israel to also punish companies and institutions assisting Soviet Jews to emigrate there.

Many of the Arab countries are concerned about the boost the refugees are giving to Israel's population. They are especially critical of the growing Jewish presence on the West Bank, in Gaza and in the older sections of the occupied Jerusalem.

Estimates of the number of Soviet Jews who wind up in the territories and in the east Jerusalem vary from several hundred to several thousand.

The State Department said it opposes "settlement activities," but did not go so far as the Carter administration and brand Jewish settlements on the lands the Arabs hope to recover as illegal.

Otherwise, the department's statement strongly condemned any boycott.

Unyielding

"The position of the United States against Arab boycott activity is firm and unyielding," it said. "The Arabs should end their boycott and

end their challenges to Israel's legitimacy."

The statement, distributed by spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler, added: "Now is not the time for provocative actions or rhetoric which will only exacerbate the situation."

The State Department again affirmed the right of all Soviet citizens to leave and live in Israel or any other country. "The United States supports this right absolutely and welcomes the assistance of private and commercial institutions and organ-

isations which assist in the realisation of this right," the statement said.

Belligerency

The Arab League's Maksoud responded in an interview that "as long as a state of war, a state of belligerency, has not ended, to that extent the boycott remains a legitimate instrument."

He called on the State Department to declare Jewish settlements illegal. "How could they bar Soviet Jews if they do not bar American Jews?" Maksoud asked.

Drop in stock prices sends shock waves

Strategists don't foresee another market rout

NEW YORK, July 24, (AP): A scary drop in stock prices has resurrected memories of market instability and suddenly cast doubt on the ability of the Dow Jones average to decisively crack the 3,000 barrier.

But investment strategists say elements that caused the price tumble yesterday had been building for a while. Many said they didn't preface any significant bailout from the stock market unless there's some unforeseen economic calamity.

"We're at or slightly below the levels where we closed at the end of June," said David Edington, a portfolio manager at Pacific Investment Management Co. in Newport Beach, California.

The Dow Jones average, the most widely watched barometer of the market's direction,

dropped more than 100 points early yesterday and sent shock waves throughout the financial markets. But the index regained half the loss by the end of the day and closed down 56.44 points at 2,904.70.

Still, it was the biggest one-day point loss for the average in six months and a sharp turnaround in psychology from last week, when the Dow average neared closing above the 3,000 mark for the first time.

Trading was tentative when the market opened today amid expectations of continued volatility. The Dow was up 0.50 at 2,905.20 in the first 90 minutes of dealing as investors searched for bargains in the wake of yesterday's selloff.

Fed chief pledges to control inflation

WASHINGTON, July 24, (Reuters): The Federal Reserve, the US central bank, remains committed to controlling inflation and achieving general price stability, chairman Alan Greenspan said today.

In remarks before a banking subcommittee of the House of Representatives, Greenspan said the bank's actions in recent days were consistent with its long-term policy — that of maintaining a tight enough hold on credit to control inflation yet steer away from recession.

If the bank's policy is maintained, as the Fed intends, the goal of general price stability should be reached within a few years, Greenspan said.

But if consumer price inflation continues at June's steep 0.5 per cent pace, that would be "very troubling," he said.

Greenspan's statements came one day after stock prices on Wall Street plummeted by 56 points after falling as much as 109 points in wild selling.

The market's sharp drop was attributed in part to confusion over Fed policy that arose after Greenspan testified before the Senate Banking Committee last week that the Federal Reserve would lower interest rates if it thought it was necessary to offset a credit crunch.

His statements were interpreted by some to indicate a retreat from the Fed's fight against inflation.

But today Greenspan stressed the Fed's continued stance against inflation.

"Continuation of inflation at last month's pace clearly would be very troubling," he told lawmakers.

"I see nothing in the action we have taken in recent days that in any way alters our past policy," Greenspan said.

The Federal Open Market Committee, the policymaking body of the Fed, believes that there's no trade-off between inflation and real economic growth, Greenspan said.

Equities markets overseas appeared to have a mixed response to Wall Street's yesterday's decline. Japan's 225-share Nikkei stock average fell 192.33 points today, losing 0.60 per cent to close at 31,702.46 following a 526.72-point loss yesterday.

But in London, stocks were higher around midday as cash-rich institutions took advantage of cheaper prices created by yesterday's drop in New York. At about noon local time, the Financial Times-stock exchange 100-share index was up 11.6 points, or 0.5 per cent, at 2,371.3.

Lawrence Helfand, a senior strategist with the Rodman and Renshaw investment firm in Chicago, said he had been expecting a correction. "I anticipate (Monday's drop) is part of that correction. There's lots of negative news around, with no real reason to anticipate any positive news."

Broader measurements of the stock market also dropped yesterday for reasons ranging from a rash of disappointing corporate earnings, to revived fears of higher interest rates, to continued anxiety over the federal deficit.

Many strategists also called the drop a classic Wall Street symptom known as "blue Monday," the tendency for prices to fall right after weekends. In this case, the excuse to sell was aggravated by the market's sudden weakness late Friday.

"It's the kind of shakeout we've had before," said Robert Farrell, chief market analyst for Merrill Lynch and Co. in New York. "I don't think it's the start of a really big decline."

Many attributed the volatility in stocks to the use of high-volume computerised strategies known as programme trading, which critics say can severely exaggerate price movements.

The US dollar strengthened against the Japanese yen today over news of increasing unrest in the Gulf, prompting traders to buy the currency regarded as a safe haven.

The dollar closed at 148.70 yen, up 0.20 yen from yesterday's close of 148.15 yen. It opened at 148.15 yen, and ranged between 148.05 yen and 148.75 yen.

Sterling shed some overnight losses against the dollar on buying for marks by speculators from other areas of Asia.



A trader on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange puts his hands over his eyes as stock prices drop in New York. (Reuters wirephoto)

American workers' costs rise

WASHINGTON, July 24, (AP): Wages, salaries and other benefits paid to American workers shot up 5.2 per cent in the 12 months ending in June, the government reported today.

The report was sure to add to analysts' worries that the nation is suffering from entrenched inflation. Last week, the government reported that consumer inflation has risen 5.9 per cent so far this year, well above the 4.6 per cent inflation rate for all of last year.

In another sign of higher wage pressures, the Labour Department said today that major collective settlements reached so far this year provided average wage increases of 3.8 per cent over the life of the pacts, up from a 2.5 per cent average increase the last time those contracts were negotiated.

The Labour Department said its employment cost index, considered one of the best gauges of inflationary wage pressures, was pushed ahead both by rising wage costs and higher benefit costs.

The 5.2 per cent jump was well above the 4.5 per cent increase of a year ago for the 12-month period ending June 1989, the department said.

Allen Sinai, chief economist at the Boston Co., called the government's data on rising labour costs "more of the same story on inflation."

Savings, loans bail-out swells June red ink

WASHINGTON, July 24, (AP): The busiest month yet for the savings and loan bail-out ballooned the federal budget deficit to \$11.2 billion in June, a month when corporate tax payments usually produce a surplus, the government said yesterday.

The shortfall, compared with a \$7.8 billion surplus in June 1989, brought red ink for the first nine months of fiscal 1990 to \$163.1 billion more than half again as much as the \$105.4 billion deficit at this time last year.

If the deficit continues to accumulate at this pace, it could top the record fiscal-year deficit of \$221.1 billion set in 1986. The White House Office of Management and Budget is officially forecasting a budget gap of \$218.5 billion, just short of the record.

White House negotiators and congressional leaders are attempting to put together a major deficit-reduction pact for fiscal 1991, starting Oct 1.

At the White House, spokesman Martin Fitzwater said President George Bush would sit down with the leaders of Congress for daily "hard bargaining" sessions for the rest of the week in hopes of reaching an agreement.

"The president wants to give it a major push," Fitzwater said.

Pessimism about the eventual success of those talks contributed to the stock price tumble Monday, analysts said.

Absent an agreement, OMB projects the 1991 deficit at \$231.4 billion.



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KD market active in short dates

GENEVA, July 24, (KUNA): At the start of foreign exchange trading in Switzerland today, one Kuwaiti dinar was trading at 4.7793 Swiss francs as against the closing rate of 4.7994 yesterday, the Swiss-Kuwait Bank reported.

Against the dinar, the German mark opened at 5.6100 (5.6251), the pound sterling 1.8939 (1.8949), Japanese yen 512.0886 (512.6750), and the US dollar 3.4507 (3.4466).

In Kuwait, the dinar interbank deposit market was active in short dates as it resumed business after the Islamic New Year holiday, dealers said.

Overnight, tomorrow/next and spot/next all dealt during the morning, but were being quoted slightly lower, as government salaries were working their way into the system and creating liquidity, they said.

Fixed dates were generally quiet, and one month was quoted at 8-5/8 8-3/8 per cent, three months at 8-3/4 8-1/2, six months at 8-13/16 8-9/16, and one year at 8-7/8 8-5/8. The Central Bank fixed the dinar at 0.28949/59 to the dollar.

Gap between rich, poor widens

A research study

WASHINGTON, July 24, (AP): The gap between rich and poor widened so much in the 1980s that the richest 1 per cent receive nearly as much as Americans' total income after taxes as the bottom 40 per cent, a liberal research group said yesterday.

The bottom 40 per cent will receive 14.2 per cent of total after-tax income received by all groups in 1990, while the top 1 per cent will receive 12.6 per cent, the centre on budget and policy priorities said.

"This marks a sharp change from 1980, when the top 1 per cent received half as much after-tax income as the bottom 40 per cent," according to the report, which was based on an analysis of the congressional budget office data on income and taxes.

The share of income going to those Americans in the middle of the income scale is lower than at any time since the end of World War II, the centre said. The report also said the richest 2.5 million people have nearly as much total income as the 100 million Americans with the lowest incomes.

Robert Greenstein, executive director of the centre, said the changes were due in part to increased income from capital gains received by the wealthy. The findings, he said, were an argument against President George Bush's call for a cut in the tax on

capital gains. Bush and other advocates of cutting the capital gains tax say it would provide an added incentive for people to invest capital in new and expanded businesses that would create jobs.

The report said the most affluent Americans received large income gains during the '80s, while middle income people gained little and the poor fell behind.

The top 1 per cent of the population will receive an expected average of more than \$175,000 in capital gains income in 1990, up \$92,000 from what they received in 1980 after adjusting for inflation, the report said.

By contrast, those in the bottom 90 per cent are projected to receive an average capital gains income of \$299 in 1990, up just \$12 over the period, it said.

Shifting federal tax burdens, fuelled by the tax changes of the 1980s, are also a factor in the changes, according to the report.

Wealthy households pay a smaller percentage of their income in taxes in 1990 than they did in 1980, it said, and lower income households pay a larger proportion.

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1989 was a promising year for economy

Kuwait's Gross Domestic Product increased by 24.1 per cent

I. Developments at a glance

Nineteen eighty-nine was a promising year for the Kuwait economy. Positive developments on the domestic front made for a revival, albeit a slow one, in most sectors of the economy. The end of the Gulf war was the most encouraging factor, restoring to some degree economic confidence in the region as a whole. Also welcome were the continued stability in the level of government expenditure, higher imports, and a revival of construction activity. Internationally, higher oil prices, together with Kuwait's increased oil production in 1989, were also effective in stepping up local economic activity.

According to the preliminary estimates released by the Ministry of Planning, gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 21.4 per cent in 1989 after a decline of 4.9 per cent the year before. This followed on from the sharp contraction in the GDP of 1985/86 and the subsequent impressive growth (16.6 per cent) in 1987.

On a less positive note, the long-expected post-Gulf war boom did not materialise in 1989. At the retail level, consumers remained hesitant about spending, whilst Kuwait's oil flourishing re-export trade was unable to revive. Also, the stock and real estate markets remained sluggish, making it doubtful that a faster rate of economic revival could be achieved soon.

The total amount spent by the government remained relatively stable: KD 3.4 billion in 1989. Continuing much the same pattern of recent years, KD886 million was allotted to wages and salaries, KD607 million to development expenditure and KD150 million to land purchases.

Estimates of Kuwait's foreign trade performance are also promising, with the value of total visible exports and imports in 1989 expected to be around KD3.1 billion and KD 1.8 billion, respectively. The services account is also expected to show a net surplus, and the current account for 1989's balance of payments is estimated to be in the region of KD2.2 billion. This compares favourably with the 1988 surplus of KD1.3 billion.

The outlook for 1990 appears to be more promising, based on the mood of cautious optimism that followed the Joint Economic Commission's recent proposals to reactivate the economy. Although oil revenue is expected to be slightly lower in 1990, the non-oil sector is likely to show some improvement, particularly as a large number of new construction projects will be implemented. The expectations of lower oil revenue in 1990 assume that higher oil prices will tend to be offset by Kuwait's lower level of production in accordance with OPEC quotas.

However, the modest increase expected in government expenditure next year, as well as the authorities' concern to effect recent amendments to the Difficult Credit Facilities Settlement Programme, should help spur faster growth for the economy.

The government is also planning to make structural changes in the economy in the medium term. The new Five Year Development Plan, scheduled to commence in July 1990, represents a comprehensive strategy covering all sectors of the economy. A major plank of the development strategy will be to adjust the population and labour market imbalances by giving a high priority to developing local human resources through improved training. At present the share of the local labour force in the public sector is comfortably high; the emphasis in the new plan is likely to be on the private sector, where the participation of Kuwaitis remains relatively low.

The new strategy is expected to support an expanded role in developmental efforts for the private sector. Increased economic diversification is also a top priority; economic planners hope that Kuwait will be able to offer improved services in the fields of finance, trade, transportation and storage during the coming decade. However, diversification will be encouraged only in those areas where local Kuwait can be competitive domestically and abroad. Agricultural development is an area that is also likely to receive greater attention in the coming years.

These strategies, based on a sound, realistic approach to the economic issues confronting the Kuwaiti economy, provide for serious efforts both to reactivate the economy and to remove the various obstacles that have so far delayed or prevented the achievement of more sustainable growth rates. The signing of the peace agreement between Iran and Iraq making possible an increased emphasis on development projects, is expected to bear fruit in terms of increased economic activity in the region as a whole. Moreover, with world demand for oil projected to rise in the 1990s and non-OPEC producers reducing their oil production, the prospects for higher oil prices also look somewhat brighter, promising a period of renewed prosperity for Kuwait in the years ahead.

II. GDP growth
After recording impressive growth in 1987, the gross domestic product registered a decline in 1988. At current prices, GDP for 1988 totalled KD5,571 million, as against KD5,587 million in 1987 — a negative growth of 0.4 per cent. In 1987, GDP grew by 16.5 per cent after a decline of 8.6 per cent in 1985 and 13.8 per cent in 1986.

In 1988, oil sector GDP totalled KD2,002 million against KD2,232 million in the previous year, representing a decline of 10.3 per cent. On the other hand, non-oil sector GDP totalled KD3,569 million in 1987 to KD3,570 million in 1988, reflecting a negative growth of 1.5 per cent, against an 8.3 per cent increase in the previous year.

Several sectors registered some growth in 1988: agriculture and fisheries (20.5 per cent), construction (4 per cent), financial institutions (1.4 per cent), real estate (4.5 per cent), transport, storage and communications (2.2 per cent) and restaurants and hotels (5.4 per cent). All other sectors recorded declines.

The preliminary estimates of the Planning Ministry show that oil sector GDP grew by 61.3 per cent and non-oil sector GDP grew by 3.6 per cent thus giving an overall growth of 21.4 per cent in 1989.

The growth recorded by the non-oil sectors was mainly due to the significant increase in the value added by petroleum refineries. If this is excluded, non-oil sector seem to have registered a negative growth of 2 per cent in 1989.

Earlier in the year, hopes were raised of an impending boom in the oil sector following the end of the Gulf war in November 1988. Such hopes were belied later in the year as economic sectors continued to face stagnation. The trade sector, for instance, continues to be characterised by slackened demand, whilst the real estate sector still faces an excess supply of commercial and residential buildings. A cutback in development expenditure provided for in the 1988/89 budget has reduced the pace of construction activity. Activity in the stock market also remains at a low key.

III. Oil sector developments

second half of 1989. Kuwait's quota for the first half of 1989 was 1,037 million bpd.

At present, Kuwait's oil production capability around 2.5 million bpd, well above the quota set for the country.

According to figures published by the Central Bank of Kuwait, the government's oil revenue totalled KD2,735.9 million in 1989 as against a revenue of KD1,557.8 million in 1988, due mainly to increased production at relatively low prices. During 1988, oil revenue registered a decline of 31.5 per cent.

In the area of downstream operation, Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI), KPC's marketing subsidiary, made significant progress, acquiring oil distribution rights in Indonesia during 1989. Kuwait plans to open its first "Q8" station there within the next few months and hopes to acquire at least 200 outlets altogether over the next two years.

KPC's exploration subsidiary, the Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (Kufpec), made an oil discovery in its North Kairouan concession in Tunisia. It has also made a promising gas find in Pakistan's Sind province. In addition, negotiations are under way with the Soviets on possible Kuwaiti participation in oil development projects in the USSR. Kufpec's present net production is around 35,000 bpd, and it expects the production capacity to rise to 75,000 bpd by 1992.

A big increase in petrochemical capacity is also planned in the near future. At present, the Petrochemical Industries Company plans to boost the capacity of its polypropylene plant at Shuaiba from 80,000 t/y to 100,000 t/y by 1992/93. Plans to build a new KD600 million petrochemical project in Kuwait are also under way.

The Kuwait National Petroleum Company is studying the possibility of further upgrading its domestic refineries to keep up with the demand for high octane fuels. At present Kuwait refines a little over two-thirds of its crude oil output.

IV. The situation and outlook for non-oil sectors

(i) Trade. Although the performance of the trade sector has shown some improvement since 1987, it continues to be troubled by slackened demand. An excess supply of consumer goods remains a feature of the market particularly in the case of durable consumer items.

Major factors affecting market demand include the stagnant trend in wages in the private sector, the cautious approach in spending by expatriate workers in view of uncertainties about their future stay in the country due to difficulties in transferring sponsorship from one employer to the other, and the reduced number of arrivals of new residents to Kuwait.

On the supply side, traders continue to flood the market with goods despite slackened domestic demand. With virtually no regulations on imports, there is a tendency for merchants to import far too much, without properly assessing market conditions. In addition, the Gulf war ceasefire had previously raised hopes of an imminent boom in Kuwait that never materialised. As a result, some traders are now burdened with large inventories of unsold goods that have added to the glut in the market.

The opportunities provided by transit trade and re-exports from Kuwait seem to be on the decline due to Kuwait's loss of the competitive edge it had enjoyed during the 1970s and early '80s as the main outlet for regional trade. The increasing prominence of Jordan's Aqaba port, the creation of additional capacity in Iraqi and Saudi Arabian ports, and Dubai's emergence as a major trading centre are some of the factors that have adversely affected Kuwait's transit trade activity.

Mindful of these difficulties, the recently appointed Joint Economic Commission has made a number of recommendations aimed at reviving the trade sector. In particular, proposals to grant trading licences only within clearly defined rules, enact a comprehensive and clear law on dealership, review existing commercial laws, and relax restrictions on visitors entering Kuwait should, when implemented, go some way towards reviving the trade sector. Further proposals, such as increasing the efficiency of Kuwaiti port services, offering better storage facilities at reasonable rates, and more importantly, speeding up the establishment of a free-trade zone and creating an export promotion agency to explore trading opportunities abroad are all measures likely to be useful.

A crucial assumption in plans to stimulate trade activity is that government expenditure will be scaled down to various economic sectors and encourage consumer spending. However, given the current psychology of the market, and until the implementation of the Joint Economic Commission's recommendations in the near future, the prospects for this appear far modest. Further measures like port clearance fees and charges, rigid re-export procedures and the ban on sales seasons also hamper the trade sector. In this setting, it is reasonable to expect somewhat modest growth for the trade sector in 1990.

(ii) Real estate
The real estate sector has made some recovery in the past three years following the slump it faced after the 1982 Manakha crisis. Recent market trends indicate noticeable stability in the prices of investment and commercial real estate in some areas of Kuwait. This can be attributed mainly to increased residential housing starts, the government's appropriation of land and optimism brought about by the Gulf war ceasefire. In addition, a reversal of the downward trend in rental rates has contributed to increased real estate investment activity.

Nevertheless, the real estate market continues to face excess supply of commercial and residential buildings. Barring a revival of activity in other sectors, it is difficult to foresee any increase in the demand for real estate.

The Joint Economic Commission made a series of recommendations aimed at stimulating activity in the real estate sector. These include establishing real estate investment funds to narrow the demand-supply gap of commercial and residential buildings, increasing private sector participation in housing projects and inviting real estate brokers to set up a company to organise sales through public auctions. The commission also recommends a review of existing rental and leasing laws.

Such measures, if implemented, are likely to bring about some measure of stability to real estate prices. Together with the proposal to transfer certain housing projects to the private sector, should help stimulate real estate market activity.

Finally, the increased government outlay of KD200 million for land purchases in 1989/90, as compared to the KD100 million actually spent in 1988/89, is another factor likely to improve real estate market activity.

(iii) Construction
Long in the doldrums, the construction sector nevertheless shows some decline in its activity during the latter part of the 1980s. This was largely due to the government's policy of reducing development expenditure. (The amount budgeted for development expenditure remains at a constant level, but actual expenditure fluctuates, mostly edging downwards). Following the completion of much of the country's major infrastructural projects, the government found it advisable to cut development spending when faced with a soft oil market. As a result, development

Kuwait: summary of public finance 1984/85-1989/90

Fiscal Year Ending June 30	1984/85 Closing Account	1985/86 Closing Account	% Change	1986/87 Closing Account	% Change	1987/88 Closing Account	% Change	1988/89 Closing Account	% Change	1988/89 Budget Est.	1989/90 Budget Est.	% Change
A. Revenues	2745	2345	-14.6	1731	-26.2	2252	30.1	2368	5.1	2054	2231	8.6
1. Oil	2494	2095	-16.0	1484	-29.2	1991	34.2	2035	2.2	1789	1942	8.6
2. Non-oil	251	250	-0.2	247	-1.3	260	5.2	333	28.0	266	289	8.7
B. Investment income	1154	2493	116.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
C. Expenditure	3205	3106	-3.1	2860	-7.9	2806	-1.9	2999	6.9	3444	3326	-3.4
1. Current (1)	2426	2382	-1.8	2238	-6.9	2252	0.6	2520	11.9	2687	2566	-4.5
A. Wages & Salaries	675	731	8.2	757	3.7	793	4.8	846	6.7	886	927	4.6
B. Goods & Services	382	298	-22.0	209	-29.0	220	5.5	222	0.6	264	261	-1.1
C. Transport equip.	21	20	-4.8	21	4.5	20	-6.3	20	0.5	26	28	7.7
D. Transfers	1348	1333	-1.1	1252	-6.1	1219	-2.6	1433	17.5	1511	1350	-10.7
2. Development	629	563	-10.4	502	-11.0	454	-9.4	379	-16.6	607	560	-7.7
Min. of Pub. Works	176	218	23.3	174	-20.0	118	-32.2	112	-5.4	211	204	-3.4
Min. of Electricity	366	305	-16.8	268	-12.1	283	5.6	204	-27.9	331	264	-20.0
Min. of Comm.	46	14	-70.7	21	-56.3	19	-9.5	12	-36.6	23	23	-2.2
Other	40	28	-31.0	39	40.2	35	-10.9	51	48.1	42	69	64.3
3. Land Purchase	150	161	7.1	120	-25.3	100	-16.7	100	0.0	150	200	33.3
D. Capital allocations	305	265	-13.1	173	-34.7	225	30.1	237	5.3	205	223	8.8
E. Balance												
1. Stricto Sensu (A - C)	-460	-760	65.3	-1129	-48.5	-554	-50.9	-631	13.9	-1390	-1095	-21.2
2. "Official" (A - C - D)	-765	-1025	34.0	-1302	-27.09	-779	-40.2	-868	11.5	-1595	-1318	-17.3
2. "Official" (A + B - C)	694	1733	149.7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Kuwait: Commercial Banks' Consolidated Balance Sheet

End of Period	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	% Change
Total Assets	7,599.1	9,146.2	9,994.2	9,585.9	9,053.3	9,307.9	9,942.3	10,402.0	10,957.6	5.3
Reserves	321.6	625.9	372.5	330.9	335.9	288.0	160.9	42.1	38.4	-8.8
Cash	18.8	22.7	24.3	19.7	24.0	25.1	28.2	35.5	23.0	-9.8
Balances with CBK	147.5	133.5	72.1	77.0	48.8	49.8	123.7	16.6	15.4	-7.2
CBK Bills	155.3	469.7	276.1	226.3	263.1	213.1	7.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Foreign Assets	2,245.5	2,251.0	2,301.2	2,507.6	2,229.6	2,179.0	2,281.9	2,476.4	2,838.9	14.6
Balances with Foreign Banks	1,738.5	1,673.8	1,505.0	1,502.3	1,366.9	1,209.9	1,298.7	1,395.1	1,606.7	15.2
Advan. & Disc. to N-residents	305.9	382.5	491.1	636.7	571.9	669.9	650.7	696.5	828.8	18.9
Foreign Investments**	201.1	194.8	305.1	368.6	290.8	299.3	332.5	384.8	404.0	5.0
Claims on Private Sector**	3,453.6	4,292.5	4,752.6	5,045.3	5,067.8	5,156.1	5,473.2	5,659.2	5,471.7	-3.3
Credit Facilities	3,172.7	3,897.3	3,844.2	4,108.8	4,198.5	4,330.0	4,626.0	4,701.2	4,743.5	0.9
Other***	280.8	395.2	908.3	936.5	869.3	826.0	847.2	958.0	728.2	-24.0
Other Assets	1,578.4	1,976.8	2,567.9	1,710.0	1,420.6	1,684.0	2,026.6	2,224.3	2,608.6	17.3
Total Liabilities	7,599.1	9,146.2	9,994.2	9,585.9	9,053.3	9,307.9	9,942.3	10,402.0	10,957.6	5.3
Private Deposits	3,609.9	3,855.3	4,041.8	4,171.8	4,120.3	4,224.7	4,435.7	4,754.0	4,958.8	4.3
Sight	956.9	857.0	787.6	588.8	565.8	584.8	636.9	549.7	525.9	-4.3
Savings	307.7	336.8	406.1	355.0	473.4	517.5	646.0	596.1	573.0	-3.9
Time	1,725.2	2,297.3	2,217.3	2,473.4	2,511.9	2,466.8	2,533.3	2,287.1	2,542.2	11.2
Foreign Currencies	595.2	333.0	597.4	717.8	557.2	649.0	983.3	1,309.8	1,296.8	-1.0
Certificate of Deposits	24.9	31.2	32.8	36.9	12.1	6.6	16.1	12.2	21.0	72.1
Government Deposits	211.0	393.8	362.5	387.8	385.5	226.6	187.2	93.6	111.7	19.3
Foreign Liabilities	1,264.1	1,530.0	1,550.4	1,560.7	1,360.3	1,214.0	1,205.8	1,261.9	1,429.6	17.3
Deposits from N-residents	0.0	1,520.1	1,550.4	1,537.0	1,336.1	1,191.8	1,183.9	1,232.4	1,452.9	17.9
Banks	—	1,331.1	1,410.3	1,430.9	1,250.2	1,103.8	1,111.3	1,163.9	1,304.2	12.1
Others	—	189.4	140.1	106.1	85.9	88.0	72.6	68.5	148.7	117.1
Other Liabilities	—	9.5	0.0	23.8	24.2	22.3	21.9	29.6	26.7	-9.8
Capital & Reserves	411.0	576.9	664.4	823.3	839.9	898.8	1,001.9	1,049.5	1,049.4	0.0
Other Liabilities	2,103.0	2,790.2	3,375.2	2,642.2	2,347.3	2,743.8	3,112.0	3,242.0	3,358.1	3.6

* Consists mainly of bonds and other shares.

** Including claims on specialised banks and financial institutions.

*** The major part consists of claims on specialised banks and the remaining part of local investments.

Gross domestic product at current prices

Sector	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Oil	2983.2	1679.1	2232.2	2001.6	2001.6
Non-oil	2612.2	3347.3	3642.2	3569.8	3569.8
Agriculture & Fisheries	(-4.5)	(17.9)	(8.3)	(-1.5)	(-1.5)
Manufacturing	39.4	41.8	49.9	60.2	60.2
Electricity	26.2	(55.7)	(35.0)	(-8.3)	(-8.3)
Gas, Water	(-30.3)	(-69.8)	(-29.8)	(-42.3)	(-42.3)
Construction	259.2	181.3	147.2	153.1	153.1
Wholesale & Retail Trade	(-4.8)	(-30.1)	(-18.8)	(4.0)	(4.0)
Restaurants and Hotels	424.0	521.7	478.2	468.6	468.6
Transport	(-19.7)	(25.0)	(-8.4)	(-2.0)	(-2.0)
Storage	(2.0)	(-3.1)	(-1.5)	(2.2)	(2.2)
Financial Institutions	221.6	112.0	146.7	148.7	148.7
Insurance	(-20.0)	(-49.5)	(31.0)	(1.4)	(1.4)
Real Estate & Bus. Serv.	(-15.1)	(26.9)	(-1.0)	(-1.0)	(-1.0)
Community, Social & Personal Ser.	229.9	488.6	526.4	590.2	590.2
GDP at current prices	5595.4	5026.4	5874.4	5567.4	5567.4
Import prices, etc.	(-1.6)	(-14.2)	(16.0)	(-4.9)	(-4.9)
Imports	583.0	5026.4	5874.4	5567.4	5567.4
Purchase Value	(-8.6)	(-13.8)	(16.5)	(-4.9)	(-4.9)

Note: Figures in brackets indicate percentage growth rates.

expenditure average KD505 million per annum from 1983-89 as compared to KD750 million from 1978-83.

The joint that the construction sector suffered in 1988 and 1989 can be traced directly to the cutback in government spending on development projects. In 1987/88 the government budgeted KD650 million for development expenditure; actual expenditure, however, amounted to only KD454 million. Similarly, in 1988/89 actual expenditure fell to KD228 million short of the budgeted amount.

Despite these developments, the present outlook

Kuwait

million in 1989. Thus the value of total exports is likely to be around KD3,100 million as compared to KD2,166 million in 1988 and KD2,304 million in 1987.

The value of Kuwait's imports amounted to KD1,661 million in 1986, KD1,531 million in 1987 and KD1,714 million in 1988. Thus in 1987, imports decreased by 7.8 per cent (KD130 million), whereas in 1988, they increased by 12 per cent (KD183 million).

In the first nine months (January-September) of 1989, the value of imports totalled KD1,398 million compared to KD1,103 million in the comparable period of 1988. It has been observed that normally imports between October and December did not register any substantial increase on account of seasonal factors and account closing for the year's end in December. Assuming another KD350 million of imports in the last three months of the year, it is reasonable to expect the value of imports to reach a level of KD1,750 million in 1989.

On the basis of the above expectations, Kuwait's trade account will record a surplus of KD1,350 million. The net surplus of the balance of services in the balance of payments stood at KD1,151 million in 1988 against KD666 million in 1987. Given that there were no negative factors to influence the net surplus position of the services account in 1989, the year is likely to end up with a current account surplus of over KD2,000 million, as compared to the current account surplus of KD1,315 million recorded in 1988.

IX. Other policy developments: proposals for re-activating the economy.

The Joint Economic Commission, constituted according to instructions from His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, recently made a set of recommendations for reviving the economy. These recommendations are to be implemented gradually in the course of the first half of 1990. The basic proposals are to: (i) expand the role of the private sector in the economy, (ii) increase the participation of the Kuwaiti workforce in the private sector, (iii) review existing legislation in areas related to the economy, especially rental, sales and tender laws, (iv) close, merge or consolidate companies and corporations whose performance has been consistently unsatisfactory, and (v) make information on the country's foreign trade and national business available to decision-makers.

The commission has also made specific recommendations for the various economic sectors. Their proposals are discussed in section III of this report.

Recommendations have also been made concerning the Central Bank's Difficult Credit Facilities Settlement Programme (announced on August 10, 1986), which envisages a 10-15 year timetable for debtors to settle their indebtedness to banks. To improve the programme's effectiveness, the commission called for settling those debts of up to KD250,000 by using collateral and cancelling the uncertain portion of the outstanding debt. It recommends that the portion of debts not covered by guarantees and mortgages should be written off altogether.

Under the package, any debtor owing more than KD250,000 can join the settlement if he presents the bank with cash or any other assets that would reduce his debts to KD250,000. Alternatively, the commission suggests that debtors be allowed to trade the collateral they have lodged with their banks to increase its value. In that event, debtors would be able to retain 20 per cent of the profits and capital gains, up to KD120,000 with the remainder going to the banks. However, if the debtors lose money through trading, the value of their liabilities will not be increased.

The proposal to settle debts of less than KD250,000 is designed to give small debtors some relief and also help commercial banks which are burdened with following up clients and other administrative tasks. The commission further suggests that the banks trade their assets mortgaged among themselves in order to rationalise their holdings, reduce the number of debtors they deal with and save on overheads.

The total value of non-performing loans of banks is now estimated at KD2,200 million, representing 1,350 debtors registered under the Settlement Programme. Of this total, collateral-backed indebtedness is estimated at KD1,200 million, leaving a gap of KD1,000 million.

Those whose debts amount to KD250,000 or less account for 54.2 per cent of the total number of debtors, while their debts constitute 2.5 per cent of total debts. Collateral covers about KD15 million of their debts of KD55 million, leaving a shortfall of KD40 million.

Writing off the debts of individuals owing less than KD250,000 will relieve them of uncertainty and thereby create a more favourable environment for economic revival. On the other hand, the proposal to settle debts above KD250,000 will encourage those deficit debtors whose loans are not backed by collateral to come forward and reach an agreement with their banks.

X. Capital market developments

Stock market activity remained sluggish during 1989, with the total value and volume of shares traded registering marked declines. During the year the total shares traded was 1.6 billion, which was 42.4 per cent lower than the previous year, and the total value of shares traded KD502 million was lower by 29.4 per cent than the year before. Although the cessation of the Gulf war had initially raised hopes of a revival in activity, the uncertain outlook for the listed companies affected market sentiments widely. Nevertheless, the

Public debt plan

Recommended

Prospects for a free trade zone

THE LAUNCHING of the public debt programme in November 1987 was a major development in remaking Kuwait's monetary policy. Two debt instruments issued by the government, viz. treasury bills and treasury bonds, gave the Central Bank a new monetary tool to counter the expansionary (and contractionary) effect of government spending. The government's fiscal restraint following the softening of the world oil market brought to the fore the danger of excessive reliance on government expenditure to determine the pace of monetary growth in the domestic economy.

The sizeable volume of resources that the public borrowing programme commands — the law originally permitted the issue of treasury bills and bonds with a value up to KD1,400 million at any point of time, and the ceiling was later raised to KD3,000 million — should enable the Central Bank to exert some influence on the economy's liquidity level.

The Central Bank manages the public debt and issue loans on behalf of the Ministry of Finance under powers derived from Article 34(1) of Law No. 32 of 1968 concerning currency, the Central Bank of Kuwait and the organisation of banking business in Kuwait. Also, according to the provisions of Article 36(h), the Central Bank is empowered to fix the amounts allocated for the purchase and discount of Public Securities or Government Treasury bills. While the Central Bank manages the public debt under the statutory obligation to the government as its banker, the Central Bank's powers to operate in the securities market are aimed at minimising fluctuations in the money supply. The latter is known as an open market operation.

The efficacy of open market operations depends on the type and amount of assets the Central Bank can hold in its portfolio, and the size and depth of the market for government securities.

Kuwaiti commercial banks are the major purchasers of the treasury bills and bonds issued by the government. Banks can buy debt instruments freely when they have surplus funds. Investments in debt instruments are treated as liquid assets by the Central Bank under its mandatory liquidity requirements. As such, the liquidity stipulation sets a floor on their ability to sell them.

Following the launching of the public debt programme, the Central Bank took the initiative in developing a secondary market. However, the magnitude of the Central Bank's open market operations can be determined only if figures are provided on the Bank's sales and purchases of treasury instruments.

The experience of some industrialised countries shows that the effectiveness of open market operations depends a great deal on the secondary market, when should offer investors a wide range of government securities. Likewise, the volume of transactions should be substantial, to allow investors to vary their portfolios. They must also have the option of switching operations from short-dated to long-dated. Kuwait still needs to gain experience in the secondary market for government securities in order to cope with a full-scale open market operation.

At any rate, the government's public debt programme has equipped the Central Bank with a powerful monetary tool to

IN DECEMBER 1989, the newly appointed Joint Economic Commission recommended that efforts be made to speed up the creation of a free trade zone as one of several means of reviving Kuwait's moribund trade sector. The idea had been first put forward by Kuwait's Chamber of Commerce and Industry as far back as 1960. It was not, however, until the 1980s and the subsequent downturn in the price of oil, that a pressing need for economic diversification made the creation of a free trade zone — one of several available options — attractive.

Essentially, a free trade zone is a special enclave within which firms, mostly foreign manufacturers, produce goods for export. Usually, free zones provide for the duty-free import of raw materials and intermediate goods, tax exemptions, subsidised utilities, reduced administrative procedures and plentiful warehousing facilities. Such privileges are often subject to the condition that almost all of the output produced within the zone be exported.

For Kuwait, there are several benefits to be gained from setting up a free trade zone within its borders:

(i) A revival of the re-export business: the absence of import and export duties on re-export goods together with less time-consuming administrative procedures at the ports would aid greatly in reviving Kuwait's re-export trade.

(ii) Stimulation of the local services sector: creating a free trade zone would necessarily help activate Kuwait's services sector, particularly banking, insurance and hotels.

(iii) Investment opportunities: a free zone would offer local entrepreneurs alternative investment channels.

(iv) Excess port capacity would be utilised: Kuwait has already invested heavily in port facilities, and a free trade zone would maximise the benefits of this investment.

What are the prospects for the creation of a free trade zone within Kuwait? First, Kuwait's ports already provide many of the basic services required of a free trade zone. These include duty-free imports and exports of most goods, cheap utilities and tax holiday of at least ten years on corporate profits. Second, Kuwait's re-export business stands to gain a great deal from increased activity in neighbouring countries. In spite of these advantages, however, Kuwait's chances of competing with free trade zones elsewhere in the Gulf remain limited in the face of certain constraints. For example, complicated procedures at the ports often cost traders a great deal in valuable time. Also, the port fees at Dubai's free trade zone, Jebel Ali, are considerably lower than those in Kuwait. In Jebel Ali, 100 per cent business ownership by a foreigner is permitted, whilst 51 per cent ownership by a Kuwaiti national is obligatory in Kuwait.

Although Kuwait lags behind regional competitors in several respects, nevertheless it has enormous potential for development. A free zone within Kuwait's borders would offer a welcome boost to the country's trade sector which in turn would stimulate many other economic sectors, particularly services.

Growth of Private Sector Deposits with Commercial Banks

	Sight	Savings	Time	CDs	Foreign Currency	Total
1986	19.1 (3.4)	44.1 (9.3)	-45.1 (-1.8)	-5.5 (-45.5)	91.8 (16.5)	104.4 (2.5)
1987	52.1 (8.9)	128.5 (24.8)	-313.5 (-12.7)	9.5 (143.9)	334.3 (51.5)	211.0 (5.0)
1988	-87.2 (-13.7)	-50.0 (-7.7)	133.8 (6.2)	-3.9 (-24.2)	326.5 (33.2)	319.2 (7.2)
1989	-23.8 (-4.3)	-23.1 (-3.9)	255.2 (11.2)	8.8 (72.1)	-13.0 (-1.0)	203.9 (4.3)

Note: Figures in brackets indicate percentage growth.

Treasury Bills and Bonds

	Outstanding	Total Issued	Held by CBK	Held by Local Banks	Held by Others
1987	638.0	62.0	509.0 (9.7)	67.0 (79.8)	61.0 (10.5)
1988	1394.5	441.0	680.0 (31.6)	243.0 (48.8)	174.0 (17.4)
1989	2186.3	316.0	1143.0 (14.5)	727.0 (52.3)	316.0 (33.3)

Note: Figures in brackets indicate the percentage share of total.

influence the liquidity level in the monetary system with the potential to insulate the domestic economy from fluctuations in the money supply caused by variations in public expenditure.

Trading, Contracting and Investment Company on behalf of the Bahrain Arab and African Bank. The issue, which took place in December, was worth \$75 million with a maturity of three years.

As a result of the slow pace of activity in the official stock market the authorities are presently considering allowing banks and investment companies to issue mutual funds (unit trusts). These funds would be targeted primarily at small investors among Kuwaitis and expatriate workers, and would be listed in the Kuwait Stock Exchange. A large portion of the funds is expected to be invested locally, which could generate demand for shares. The government could also introduce options and forward deals.

Aware of the stock market's distinctive importance in Kuwait, the Joint Economic Commission made a number of recommendations aimed at reviving its activity. In a move to turn the market toward fundamentals, the Commission has called for publishing the financial statistics of companies twice a year and for disclosing sufficient information for use by investors on listed companies.

Other suggestions include expanding the market's base through increased registration of Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti companies and encouraging the conversion of successful family-owned companies into public shareholding companies. The commission also urged the stock exchange to play an active role in facilitating mergers and acquisitions of companies. Finally, it recommended legislation to permit companies

to issue convertible debentures to finance their projects, hence adding a new instrument to the capital market.

Overall, 1990 looks set to be the start of a new phase of development for the Kuwaiti economy as a whole. With the oil prices remaining firm, the outlook for the oil sector is promising. The implementation of a wide range of re-vitalising measures, as recommended by the Joint Economic Commission, will provide a much needed boost to economic growth. Although the thrust of fiscal policy will remain unchanged from the previous year, a modest shift towards expansion can be expected. Public debt instruments will provide the government with greater flexibility in pursuing fiscal policy. Among the non-oil sectors, the outlook for the construction sector is optimistic; there are a number of on-going projects, and several more are scheduled to be implemented in the coming year. Increased construction activity will have some spill-over effects on the trading and real estate sectors.

Over the medium term, the Five Year Development Plan (1990-95) — with its emphasis on developing local human resources through improved training and skill development and activation of the role of private sector in development efforts — should set the pace for further development of the Kuwaiti economy. (Courtesy: NBK)

MULTILATERAL



GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel answers reporters questions at a press conference in Geneva on Monday, where he urged delegates to get down to serious bargaining during the crucial GATT meetings in Geneva this week. (Reuters wirephoto)

'Time is running out'

No progress made on trade talks: Third World

GENEVA, July 24, (Reuters): Third World delegates complained at world trade talks yesterday that negotiations to liberalise international commerce had failed to make adequate progress.

David Woods, a spokesman for the 96-nation Gatt world trade forum, said the common threat at the opening of this week's session of the Uruguay Round of talks was: "We should be further through the negotiations than we are and time is critically short."

The Uruguay Round, named after the country where it was begun in 1986 under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, is due to end in December in Brussels with second setting patterns for world trade into the next century.

The session in Geneva this week was aimed at drawing up framework agreements covering 15 sectors of trade, from textiles to trade marks.

Gatt director-general Arthur Dunkel said all countries were politically committed to freeing international commerce but there was a lot of "nitty gritty" detail to be worked out before December.

"Governments are still playing cat and mouse, conditioning everything to everything," he said. "It is in this area that we have to begin to break the deadlock."

Many delegates were concerned that time is running out.

"What has been achieved falls short of what we expected to achieve," said Japanese chief negotiator Minoru Endo.

Lilia Bautista of the Philippines, speaking on behalf of the Asian group of nations which includes Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand, said she was greatly disappointed. "Given that we have only about 133 days



Head of the European Communities Commission Hugo Paemen, (left) talks with EEC ambassador Paul Tran prior to the start of the GATT meeting in Geneva on Monday. The EEC and the United States reached a procedural breakthrough in agriculture negotiations on Monday. (Reuters wirephoto)

left before Brussels, the possibility that the round will end as a failure does not now seem unthinkable."

Mexican negotiator Jesus Seade, speaking for Latin American and Caribbean countries, said "the pace and intensity of the work has been extremely sluggish."

He warned delegates that unless significant progress was made, the Brussels meeting would be presented with a partial and inadequate set of results which would be totally unacceptable.

The dispute between the United States and the European Community over how far and how fast to cut government support to their farmers had threatened to gum up this week's talks.

But agreement to set aside the agriculture issue until late August has cleared the way for negotiators to press ahead with other aspects of the Uruguay Round.

The \$117 billion a year trade in textiles, which Third World producers want freed from curbs that restrict exports is likely to be another difficult area.

Philippine delegate Bautista complained that the United States and Canada clung to proposals to substitute global quota schemes for current individual deals, despite a consensus that this would perpetuate restrictions and disrupt trade.

She said the EC was putting more obstacles in the way of the textile industry instead of easing curbs.

"It is a choice between the devil and the deep blue sea and ASEAN chooses none," Bautista said.

Differences also remain on intellectual property like patents, investment restrictions, import restraints for balance of payments reasons, and measures to prevent goods being dumped on world markets at artificially low prices.

In a statement to the opening session yesterday, Japan's representative Minoru Endo said progress in the talks fell short of expectations.

"The possibility that the (Uruguay) Round will end in failure does not now seem unthinkable," agreed Bautista.

Bush proposes first step toward hemispheric free-trade zone

WASHINGTON, July 24, (AP): President George Bush announced yesterday that he will ask Congress to approve special duty-free treatment of selected imports from four Andean countries as a step toward "a comprehensive free trade zone for the Americas."

Bush made the announcement after meeting with Ecuadorian President Rodrigo Borja.

In addition to Ecuador, the preferential trade treatment would affect Colombia,

Bolivia and Peru.

Bush also announced that he will expand US co-operation and technical assistance toward development of Latin American and Caribbean agriculture.

At the same time, he signed a proclamation increasing the range of products from the four Andean countries that are eligible for duty-free treatment by the United States.

As a fourth step, Bush said he wants to

negotiate comprehensive long-term undertakings on trade and investment liberalisation with the four countries. Bernard W. Aronson, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, said one of the agreements, with Ecuador, was signed yesterday.

The President described the measures as a follow-up to the proposal he made June 27 for a free trade zone for the entire Western hemisphere.

Bombay shares

Bombay Stock Exchange prices (Rs)				July 24, '90.			
	Pr. Close	Open	Close		Pr. Close	Open	Close
ACC	810	—	—	Ind Rayon	126	127	124
Asian Chem	—	—	—	Indrol	260	260	257.50
Alu Nis	—	—	—	JK Syn	71.50	71	72
Azi Fab	—	—	—	Kin Engg	165	167.50	170
Ashtok Ley	245	247.50	250	Kir Cumm	79	79	79
Bajaj Auto	522.50	527.50	517.50	KSB Pumps	200	195	200
Bar Rayon	1095	1095	1085	L & T	96	95.50	94
Blow Plast	—	—	—	Lipton	82	88	85
Bom Dye	28	28	28	Mac Russel	92	90	90
BK Bond	117	117.50	120	Mac Coats	130	130	150
Burr Wal	70	70	77.50	Nat Org	—	—	—
Canshare	—	—	—	Mas Share	24.50	26.50	24
Cen Enka	4325	4300	4175	Mico	965	960	970
Cen Spg	4800	4150	3950	Milford	180	—	—
Colgate	250	250	250	MRF Ltd	81	90	80
Crown Gr	1050	—	—	Muk Iron	270	260	330
DCM	33.50	34	35.50	Noel	140	143	141
Deep Fert	29.50	30	29.50	Nippon	1360	1380	1360
Dunlop	65	—	—	Orsky	41	43	44
El Hotels	55	56	60	Opwal Agro	25	27	25.50
ESSE Index	941.70	151.25	147.50	Paisa	36	39	40
Eskafer	147.50	151.25	147.50	Pfizer	90	90	90
Esar Spg	41.50	42.50	41.75	Ponds	255	255	267.50
Food Spl	133.75	133.75	135	Pratt Auto	70	70	67
Forbes	61	61	63	Ranbaxy	99	97	99
Gar Poly	38.50	38	37.50	Ray Wool	90	90	90
Gilinda	105	102	100	Reliance	240	245	240
GNPC	10	40	39.50	Shree Cem	97.50	103.50	97.50
Grainm	150	151	146	Shure Cem	100	100.50	101.50
GE Ship	43.50	43.50	42	Shaw Wall	—	—	—
GSFC	225	222.50	225	Si Fib	56.25	52.50	57.50
Guj Altl	91	90	91.50	Siemens	115	116	116
Guj Heavy	15.50	15	17	SKF	1630	1630	1630
Hera Honda	37.50	36.50	38	Spic	64.50	65	66
Hind Cba	1560	1575	1525	Tai Oil	72	74	74
Hind Cocoa	131.50	133	134	Tata Mills	—	—	—
Hind Motor	176.25	181.25	177.50	Tata Chem	120	121	120
Hindustan	46	46.25	44.75	Telap Agro	850	1060	930
Hoselst	312.50	320	312.50	Tello	169	177	175
Hoselst	2540	2475	2600	Vam Org	136.50	138.50	134.25
Ingersoll	250	250	255	Vareil	104	102	104
ITC	95	97.50	95	Volcas	26.50	27.50	24.50
Ind Org	62.75	63	61	Wimco	50	50	51
				Zenith	70	74	70

Compiled by Kuwait-India International Exchange Co.

Tokyo shares

Nikkei stock average: 31702.46		(-192.33)		Volume: 356 million shs		Yen exchange rate: 148.70	
Name of stock	Cing	Name of stock	Cing	Name of stock	Cing	Name of stock	Cing
Advantest Corp	6030	NEC Corp	1900	Mitsubishi Corp	1520	Mitsubishi Estate	1400
Ajinomoto	2290	Nikon Corp	1640	Mitsubishi H I	935	Mitsui R E	1680
Alps Elec	2360	Nippon Shin Co	1080	Mizuho Corp	1850	Mori Seiki Co.	4160
Amada	1770	Nippon Steel Corp	536	Mochida Ph	3940		
Asahi Chem Ind	885	Nippondenso	2210	Nitsuko Corp	1450		
Asahi Glass	1740	Nomura Sec	2110	Okuma Mach	1740		
C. Itoh Co.	798	Onward K Co.	2200	Oris Corp	5030		
Canon Inc.	1520	Pioneer Elec Co.	6240				
Casio Comp	1520	Renown Look Inc	2480				
Dai Nippon Printing	1860	Sanyo Elec Co.	845				
Daichi Sanyaku	2560	Secom Co., Ltd.	6750				
Dainippon Ph	2870	Shinetsu Chem	1850				
Daisinku Corp	1860	Shindengen Elec	1340				</

EVENTS

Indian Video Roundup

Crazy capers

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

Deewana Mujhsa Nahin, billed as a musical romance doesn't work, simply because it lacks that edge which could have given it credibility.

For starters, Ajay's (Aamir Khan) obsessive, ahrasive passion for Anita (Madhuri Dixit) seems more like harassment than genuine love, which we are told it is supposed to be. The trouble is that it's not convincing.

No one is fooled by the contrived one-sided attraction and its outcome. It's just a matter of time before the girl melts into Ajay's arms. But before that, you've got to sit through unemotional, incredible rip offs and crazy capers, ranging from Ajay's "undying love" for Anita, whose photographs are stuck everywhere in his room, including the toilet.

The idea was passable, but not its treatment which is further complicated with the appearance of a sticky character, Anita's fiancée, whose villainous pranks compound the nightmare. It's like waking up in the dark of night and finding a white robed ghost in your bed. Romance, at that time, would certainly be far from your mind. So, it is in Deewana Mujhsa Nahin.

Aamir Khan and Madhuri Dixit's superficial performances don't amend matters. Forget it. There are better things you could do with your time. To make matters worse, the video-cassette circulated by some video shops is so sketchy that you can hardly see the performers in the second half



Aamir Khan and Madhuri Dixit in Deewana Mujhsa Nahin.

of the film. For once, the faulty copying is forgiven.

Mera Pati Sirf Mera Hai
The title's possessive nature says it all. The woman's husband is not for sale. If not for anything, it's worth a viewing for resisting some stereotypes, like the typical Indian housewife who suffers in silence.

Not Roopa (Radhika), though. She is a nag, suspicious, jealous and ego-centrist. With such attributes, she acts like a

tiger on the prowl, spreading stories about an alleged affair between her husband Prakash (Jeetendra) and seductive neighbour, Sharda (Rekha).

Once this idea is introduced, the film turns into a battle of wits with both women trying to live up to their reputations. Roopa's adamancy leads her out of the house; Sharda's brings her in. Actually, it's just a matter of trust that is lacking in the couple's relationship. This, it seems, is what the film is all about.

Radhika as Roopa is rather convincing as the woman who'll do anything, including kidnapping her daughter, to get back at the woman she wholeheartedly believes "stole my husband."

The problem, it seems, is also the question of whether a mismatched couple can live under one roof. Roopa, an educated woman, is married off to a semi-literate man. One reason she resents her husband and scoffs at him. When a relationship lacks respect, it's bound to flounder.

As Prakash and Roopa's does. Thanks to the timely intervention of Dasari Narayan Rao's screenplay, their marriage is saved, but before indulging in several inane sequences, car chases and a court scene.

Despite wishy washy characterisation, this film is more watchable than Deewana...

The above films are by courtesy of Athari Video, Main St., Farwaniya; and Canary Video, Sharq.

PRAYERS

Fajr	3.39 am
Zuhr	11.54
Asr	3.30 pm
Maghreb	6.40
Isha	8.06

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Jazira Al Shaitan (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Yusra

Al Sahmiya
Halawa Al Rooh (Arabic)
Starring: Kamal Shinnawi, Safiya Al Omari

Al Hamra
Taht Al Sifr (Arabic)
Starring: Najla Fathi, Salah Saadani

Drive-In
Jazira Al Shaitan (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Yusra

Al Firdous
Fyar Ke Naam Qurban (Hindi)
Starring: Mithun Chakraborthy, Dimple Kapadia

Fahsheel Open-Air
Main Azaad Hoon (Hindi)
Starring: Mithun Chakraborthy, Dimple Kapadia

Al Fahsheel
Hanafi Al Abahu (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Yusra

Al Jahra
Angels Blood Mission
Starring: Adel Imam, Yusra

Granada
Closed

Salaikhah
Tenzan: The Ultimate Mission
Starring: Adel Imam, Yusra

Al Jleeb
Oru Vadakkam Veeragadha (Malayalam)
Starring: Mammootty

Ahmadi Drive-In
Al Shaitanah (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Yusra

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

9.00	Holy Quran
9.15	Cartoons
9.40	Iftah Ya Simsim: children's programme
10.10	Good Morning
10.15	Waad Nahaar: daily serial, featuring Azza Kamal, Mustafa Fahmi
11.15	Sabah Al Khair
12.00	Al Ma'sera: Arabic serial, featuring Jamil Awad, Abeer Essa, Julie Awad
1.00	News Summary
1.05	World News via Satellite
2.00	Al Sanafer: cartoon serial
2.30	Surkhah Nadm: Gulf serial, starring Maryam Saleh, Ali Hassan
3.30	Lassie: English feature
4.30	English serial
5.30	Adventures: cartoon serial
6.30	Alam Al Ghad: (Tomorrow's World) — documentary
7.30	Music
8.15	Lauhat Shabiya: local programme
9.00	News in Arabic
9.45	Al Zaera: Arabic serial, featuring Samiha Ayoub, Salah Qabil
11.30	Soora Ijtimaiah: "Bait Wafaa" Starring: Nadine, Saamiya Jaziri, Ridwani Aqili
12.15	News Summary
12.20	World News via Satellite
12.40	Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

6.00	Opening announcement & Holy Quran
6.10	The Karate Kid: A cartoon series
6.30	Alif: "Stairway to Heaven." Alif thinks about leaving earth, however, he is offered a better job in other place. What will he do? Comedy.
7.00	P.M. Magazine: Strange news from around the world. Documentary.
8.00	News in English
8.30	Chart Attack: A variety of songs from the Music Box charts.
9.15	Paradise: "A gathering of guns." Ethan is arrested by the Sheriff of Mexico. Emilia tries to rescue him. Adventure.
10.00	Witness to Survival: A survivor of flight 232 returns to the abashed plane to save the life of a one-year-old. Documentary.
10.30	Late night film
12.00	News in Brief
12.10	Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

■ All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

Please note that Kuwait Television programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

WHAT'S ON

Social

Summer Bazaar

July 25: All vendors of the Ladies Friendship Association summer bazaar are invited to attend a meeting on Wednesday at the Crystal Room, Kuwait Regency Palace, 5-7 pm. For details contact Manal 574-9179.

Aug. 3: The Ladies Friendship Association's Big Summer Bazaar

will be held in the Exhibition Hall at Kuwait Regency Palace Hotel from 9 am to 9 pm. Gift items, home products, handicrafts, toys, clothes and much more. Raffle with attractive prizes. Surprise for children. All are welcome. For details call Manal 574-9179.

Approb 'Who's Who' directory

THE Association of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen (Approb) is planning to publish a "Who's Who" directory of prominent Pakistani professionals and businessmen resident in Kuwait by January 1991. The directory aims at providing information about all Pakistanis proficient and distinguished in their professions and businesses.

Data forms are available free of cost from Approb executive board members and other locations. For further details contact Approb on Tel. No. 2423315, Fax 5323751, P.O. Box 2351, Salmiya, 22024 Salmiya, Kuwait.

Filipino expats survey

The office of the welfare officer of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration is launching an initial information campaign to conduct a survey of Filipino workers in Kuwait.

This will cover statistical data on the number of Filipino workers employed in the private companies and government institutions. It will also include such information as job classifications, tenure of contracts, duration of residence and other information about the workers.

The Filipino Workers Social Centre (FWSC) at the Philippine embassy is also inviting volunteers for its various social and welfare projects designed to minimise the mounting problems of overseas contract workers — thereby ensuring the general welfare of Filipinos.

The official survey form can be obtained from welfare officer, Alejandro Samia Santos at the following tel. Nos. 5329315, 5329316, 5329317, 5329318 & 5329319.

Summerbelle '90

Aug 2: United Goans Centre will hold Summerbelle '90 at the SAS Hotel's The Tent. Top Ranks and Hurricane Alley in attendance. For reservations call Tony, 2612024; Cyril, 2523920; Joe, 5655140.

LIL

July 30: 10 am to 12 noon. LIL will hold a newcomer's coffee morning on Monday at the Sheraton Hotel, Mezzanine floor. Ladies new to LIL or Kuwait are welcome. For details contact Janet 2434941.

Music

Filipino rock opera

July 27: *Kailangan ka ni maria* ... If you have the talent to sing and dance and act, you may be one of the performers required in *Maria makiling ... isang rock opera*, a musical play to be presented by Kamay (Kalipunan ng Mapaglikhang Pinoy sa Kuwait) in co-operation with the Philippine Cultural Club (FCC) and the Philippine embassy on October 19, 1990 at the Kuwait Ice Skating Rink Theatre. The show is a folkloric stage play which will feature slow and hard rock songs, composed and adapted to dramatise the story, a Filipino rock band to play the music and some interpretative cultural dances.

Interested parties may join the audition on July 27, Friday at the Mahubay Restaurant Ballroom from 4 pm to 8 pm. For further details, please contact any Kamay officer at their after-six headquarters, Mahubay Restaurant.

Hotels

At the Sheraton:

Hunt Room: Daily buffet lunch in addition to a la carte; plus grilled specialties; a la carte dinner plus some specialties from Le Tarbouche: Duo Fantasy in attendance.

Riccardo Restaurant: will be open for dinner 8pm to 11pm with live entertainment by Regina and Frances.

Coffee Shop: breakfast, lunch and dinner: 6am to 0100am.

At Holiday Inn Crown Plaza

Coffee Shop: open for early morning breakfast; also serves lunch and dinner.

Lobby Cafe: offers refreshments and snacks.

Bahylon Gardens: features fresh fruit juices and refreshments.

At the Plaza:

Al Dallah Coffee Shop: international cuisine; open buffet plus menu.

Lolouwah Corner: snacks and refreshing summer drinks.

Marco Polo: Italian ambience and cuisine, particularly pasta.

Education

British Council

The British Council is giving out information on how to get British qualifications through correspondence. Details about the names of colleges, dates and fees can be obtained from the Education Office, open from 9 am to 12.30 noon and 5 to 8 pm.

TV Talk

L.A. Law's Abby goes off to a real shooting war

From Frank Durham
in Los Angeles

ELFIN actress Michele Greene, who plays vulnerable single-parent Abby in TV's *L.A. Law*, is planning to go to war. Not the Hollywood, make-believe kind ... but the sort where people die every day.

For, off-screen, brown-haired Michele is as tough as a jailhouse's bars when it comes to battling for children wounded in war-torn El Salvador.

And now, in spite of warnings from her mother and close friends, Michele is determined to march straight into the firing line to see for herself how the youngsters are being looked after. She will check first-hand, in spite of the danger, the results of mercy work she is doing among the film community of Hollywood. This includes raising money for mobile hospitals that operate where the fighting is fiercest.

Michele, volatile daughter of a Mexican mother and Irish father, told me: "I know I'll be at risk."

"And I will. I want to visit the wounded kids there, and to see these clinics. The organisation in which I'm involved here is called Medical Aid for El Salvador. It sets up these moveable medical units wherever the fighting is the worst."

"The clinics provide medical assistance where there is none, or they help people who can't afford existing medical facilities. This is very dangerous work."

Michele, a bachelor girl whose father died when she was a baby, went on softly: "My mother is very apprehensive about me going to El Salvador. She says, 'You may be there with good intentions. But, one day, you could just happen to be riding on a bus that gets blown up.'"

"My friends tell me, 'You're crazy — don't go.' But I know that I'll go to El Salvador sooner or later. I'd like to see it for myself. But I must admit that I'm very nervous. For there does happen to be a very active war going on there."

"The executive director of the programme is a good friend of mine. So I can talk to him about the safest way to go about things and the best time for my visit."

"There is this cause in my life now, and it is tempting to say, 'I believe in this so much that I'm going there right now.' But I must be smart."

"I have to be wise because I don't want to have my arm blown off or come home maimed in some other way..."

Michele paused while eating her salad in a trendy Beverly Hills restaurant to look down at her slim, though dramatic, figure. She chuckled: "After all, there's not much of me to lose."

And, while working on the smash-hit designer-lawyer series, Michele never forgets those wounded and often forgotten children in the South American war. She told me: "Every year we bring a group of children with war injuries over here."

"These are youngsters who will have shrapnel or bullets in their bodies that the rural doctors in El Salvador can't

get to... There are also children who have had amputations that haven't been done properly."

"These things have to be fixed. About 15 of these kids and their parents come over to America and go to hospitals here. Doctors all over the United States donate their time free for them. I was at a reception for the last group who arrived here."

"We held it at a reception centre at Pacific Palisades, down on the coast here. They were just the sweetest little kids."

Michele's fiery Mexican blood brought colour to her beautifully-chiselled face as she clashed head-on with the standard US view of El Salvador. They speak of politics and finance. She speaks of mangled children.

Michele said: "We have been described as a controversial organisation... that Washington perceives us as a very suspicious outfit. I don't agree at all."

"These children who come over tell horror stories about the war. There was one nine-year-old boy, shot in the leg, who had been interrogated by government men there for three days."

"The only medical assistance they gave him was the basic thing to stop him bleeding. Just so that he didn't die. But the boy had this horrible wound as he was interrogated, before being sent home. For they thought he was an insurgent. This sort of thing happens in El Salvador."

"The reason we don't make a big issue of El Salvador in this country... and why we don't accept political refugees from there... is because we are financing the war. We are backing their government, so we cannot admit that there is any sort of persecution going on there."

"You cannot admit these atrocities are being committed. Otherwise, the next question would be, 'Why are we giving these people billions of dollars a year?' El Salvador is one of those South American countries where somebody can knock on your door in the middle of the night and pull your husband out of bed and cut off his hands."

"You'll never see him alive again. Your husband will most likely be found in the river six months later."

So strongly does Michele feel about letting people know the true situation in El Salvador that she plans to have an "educational meeting" in the home in Hollywood Hills she shares with two dogs, two cats, two birds and assorted fish.

She explained: "People who spend half their time in El Salvador will come along and show films, run tapes and talk to a meeting about what's going on in the country. I shall invite people to come along who I think would be interested in really knowing."

"I shall, for example, be asking Jimmy Smits, the idealistic young Hispanic attorney in *L.A. Law*. He is very interested in the subject. He's nearly the same way I am when it comes to our roots."

"Jimmy's mother is from Puerto Rico and his father is from Surinam, South America. So we both have a real feeling for that part of the world. It is an ethnic thing. My mother is Mexican and my father was from an Irish family."

"Our organisation holds a series of these meetings because El Salvador is a cause people in American are just not aware of. It is not big news because the war there has been going on for so long... Yet we give the place billions of dollars every year."

So now Michele is determined to go to El Salvador and bring back the news from there first-hand. So far, something has always cropped up to stop her going... and to underline the danger.

Michele told me: "Every time I've planned to go, there has been some sort of uprising. I was intending to go near to election time, for example, but they the organisation wasn't sending anyone down there because the situation was so volatile."

But Michele has already been on a less-than-glamorous mercy trip to poverty-stricken parts of Mexico. She became a volunteer worker for Amigos de las Americas, a public health project to improve sanitation.

She brushed aside two tempting television offers, to go and build toilet facilities for the poor. Michele, used like all beautiful young actresses to the glitz, fast-lane life of Tinseltown, describes the experience as "the best time of my life."

In between acting and charity work, Michele tends her "zoo" at home, rides her horse in the mountains near Malibu and does volunteer work at an animal shelter in Santa Monica, a coastal suburb of Los Angeles.

But her great passion is children. She told me: "I love them. When I get married, I'm going to have three or four. But I don't know how I'll manage then, what with all those animals. When would I ever be able to work?"

"I must say, though, with all the things I'm doing now, I already feel as though I am mother."

Although she yearns for kids of her own, Michele admits she is wary of marriage. The vibrant young actress, whose boyfriend, Jim, is a cameraman on the show, admitted: "I plan and want to get married, although I don't know when."

"I'm sort of cautious about the whole thing. It's funny because most women are running towards getting married and I seem to be running away."

"I think I feel like this because my father passed away before I was even a year old. My mother never remarried, so I never knew what it was like to grow up in a family with a married couple."

"So I have become a fiercely independent person. And I always feel that, if I get married, I am in danger of losing that independence."

And any husband of Michele's will have more than her determination to stand on her own two dainty feet to contend with. He will have to be able to cope with a wife who wants to go to war.



Lawyer Abby Perkins, played by Michele Greene, faces a tough customer in an episode of L.A. Law.



Literary meeting

The monthly literary meeting of the Punjabi Adabi Sangat was held last week at the home of Jagdish Singh Arora. It was presided by Gurbaksh Singh Dogra. Taher Pervaz and Najam Akashli presented a short story and poem for critical appraisal. Poets G.S. Dogra, Khawaja Arshad Ahmed, Rashid Mewati, Jagdish Singh Arora, Najam Akashli, Bhagwan Singh Dogra and Jasbir Singh Dhiman recited poetry. Above (L-R): Tahir Pervaz, G.S. Dogra, Najam Akashli and J.S. Dhiman at the literary meet.

The macabre and bizarre abound at crime writers meet

Black week by the sea grouped 60 writers

GIJON, (AP): David Serafin, a dignified Oxford professor, writes about a dentist who rides the subway with female mannequins dribbling fake blood from their mouths.

R D Zimmerman, a blond and boyish American, imagines a Russian axe murderer who chops up his girlfriend's ex-lover just so he can take over his victim's luxurious Leningrad apartment.

And Susan Moody, a short, white English woman, creates a tall, black woman detective who sends aid to Third World countries from the profits of her boyfriend's jewel heists.

The unexpected, the macabre and the bizarre abounded at a convention

of crime writers dubbed "Black Week" in this northern Spanish port. Sponsored by the city of Gijon and several business, the July 9-13 gathering brought together more than 60 writers from 20 countries.

They included ex-cops, journalists and former housewives, some of whom had witnessed or lived through events stranger than the most bizarre mystery story.

One claimed to own a bullet-proof raincoat, another said he had been taken for a borrowing ride by members of an Argentine death squad and still another once saw a man throw a baby to his death from the widow of a New York apartment.

The third annual convention brought together writers from the East and West, including Americans who talked like Karl Marx and Russian who sounded like Donald Trump.

They gave talks, held meetings and exchanged endless war stories over drinks in the sidewalk cafes that ring Gijon harbour.

Jan Eik, a writer from East Germany, talked about German unification and what it would mean for his future. More freedom but less money.

Under communism, Eik said, East German bookshops offered a small selection of crime novels and his works sold out rapidly.

"People bought everything in three

or four days. Now, they can buy any book they want."

Eik does not expect East Germans to buy a lot of crime novels in the next few years because they will be busy purchasing Western products that were out of reach under communism.

"People want new cars, video recorders and electronic equipment," he said. "These things are much cheaper now."

Twenty-nine-year-old Soviet author and editor Artem Borovik does not write crime stories, but he publishes them in a magazine called "Top Secret" that is dedicated to stretching the limits of glasnost.

"We call it 'Top Secret' because it

sells better," said Borovik, who lived in the United States for six years and speaks fluent English. "Remember, this is the free market we're moving towards."

Borovik, whose faith in capitalism appears unbowed, said Soviet crime writers now have a new enemy to write about instead of the CIA. "The Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the bureaucrats who do not want to turn power to the press and Parliament."

Borovik may believe the Central Intelligence Agency is no longer the enemy, but Cuban crime writer Luis Adrian Betancourt is not convinced. His novel "Hurricane" tells of a Cuban

who collaborates with a trio of CIA agents who try to sneak onto the Caribbean Island and show instability. In the end, the CIA, loses and the forces of communism triumph.

Betancourt said he and a recognised Cuban poet once headed a joint book-signing session in Havana. When Betancourt's books ran out, the crowd left.

"I turned to the poet and said, 'we Cubans aren't very cultured. We buy spy novels and throw the real literature in the trash.'"

Zimmerman, the 37-year-old American who wrote about a Russian axe murderer, said he was shadowed by agents of the KGB while travelling

in the Soviet Union in 1978. He was working as a guide for a US-sponsored agricultural exhibit.

Zimmerman has incorporated his experiences in the Soviet Union into several of his novels, which include "Blood Russian," "The Red Encounter," and "The Cross and the The Sickle."

Jesse Slattery, a crime reporter who worked for 17 years for the New York City tabloid newspaper New York Post, talked about his bullet-proof raincoat, the time he got stabbed while reporting in Harlem and his dealings with a woman who is considered one of the world's 10 best mercenaries.

Mr Chips lives in a matchbox

Shrinking-dog

TOP breeder Betty Inwood is producing amazing, ever-shrinking dogs. Her latest puppy can sleep comfortably in a large matchbox.

Betty thought she had won the tiniest victory when she bred a pint-sized Pekinese puppy called Twinkle Toes. She popped easily into a champagne glass.

But her next small-scale production was an even bigger surprise. Mr Chips a cheeky Yorkshire terrier, weighed in at a micro-light 12 ounces. At ten weeks old, he was still only two inches tall.

Nobody was more surprised at his arrival than Betty. For she had fitted his mother Truffles with a "contraceptive" — a nappy — when she got that loving feeling.

Betty said: "Truffles is so small I didn't think she would safely breed, so I wasn't taking any chances."

But the precautions were not enough to deter amorous Yorkies. Crumb. "Unfortunately I had not reckoned on him," said Betty. "He must be the most naughty and romantic dog ever. Nothing can stop him."

"I didn't actually see them mating — mind you it would have been easy to miss."

Now that Mr Chips has made his big entrance into the world, Betty has the problem of keeping track of him. He can disappear down the side of chairs and vanish underneath the fridge.

Betty says: "I have to hold on tightly to him when I give him a bath because I'm scared he might go down the plughole if I let go of him."

And finding a bowl small enough for Mr Chips to eat from was also a problem.

"I can't put a saucer down for him because it just tips up when he climbs onto it," Betty said. "I've found the best thing to use is a small ashtray, one which is heavy enough not to overbalance and small enough for him to get into."

Miniature dogs are in great demand and can command high prices. But Betty has no plans to sell Mr Chips.



Tiny Yorkshire Terrier Mr Chips sits in matchbox.

Greek 'gemstone' clouded by pollution

Athens needs polishing

By Dina Kyriakidou

ATHENS, (Reuters): Once described in Greek poetry as the gemstone on the earth's ring, Athens needs a lot of polishing before it sheds its notoriety as one of Europe's most polluted cities.

As Athenians begin their summer exodus, abandoning their ancient city to escape the scorching sun and thick smog, tourists dip into public ponds for relief.

Looking down from one of the green mountains surrounding the Greek capital, its best known landmark — the Parthenon — is hardly visible through a heavy cloud of pollution.

"Athens is a city which is moving with mathematical precision to paralysis," Environment and City Planning Minister Stefanos Manos told Reuters in an interview.

Now sprawling over 528 square km (211 square miles) of what used to be a green valley split by a river, Athens was only a poor village at the foot of the Acropolis when it became the capital of modern Greece in 1834.

None of the splendour of the Golden Age of Pericles had remained except for scattered marble ruins which Athenians used to loot for construction materials.

Unplanned development has transformed that village of rock-paved alleys and small houses into a crowded, noisy and filthy concrete monster which becomes deadlier every summer.

What Athenians call the "nefos", the cloud of air pollution which hangs trapped above the city in warm weather, killed hundreds of residents during a summer heatwave in 1987. This summer Athenians are again fleeing to

the countryside and the white-washed islands, leaving the capital to its misery of strikes, power cuts and water shortage.

"The city of Athens has no authority on its biggest problems which are the 'nefos,' traffic and transportation," said deputy mayor Ilias Skalaiois.

Mayors have made cosmetic changes, planting trees, renovating the central Constitution square, where huge political rallies used to be held, and decorating squares with art works.

A glass sculpture of a runner which dominates the central Omonia square was built to mark Greece's bid to host the 1996 Olympics. But Athenians said the athlete, sick of the smog was running away from Athens.

Heavy traffic contributes to the air and noise pollution. Sidewalks, sometimes not wide enough for two pedestrians, are often blocked by parked cars and motorcycles.

Apart from two central patches of green, the National Garden and the Areos Park, Athens is a massive construction of concrete apartment buildings.

There was no planning to cope with large numbers of Greeks who came from the countryside and Asia Minor back in 1923, after a war between Greece and Turkey, and who helped boost the capital's population to its present 3.5 million.

As people from the country side moved to the capital in search of work and Athenians moved to the rapidly developed suburbs in search of quiet and fresh air, the inner city became the commercial and administrative centre.

Downtown Athens was laid out by the Bavarian architects brought by modern Greece's first king, Otto, in the 19th century. They also designed his palace, now the parliament, in the neo-Classical style which influenced most buildings at the time.

Few of these buildings have survived. Most of those which did are in Plaka, known to tourists as "the neighbourhood of the gods".

At the foot of the Acropolis, Plaka was the only downtown district to be saved because of a ban on construction and incentives to renovate old buildings.

Greek ecologists advocate drastic measures such as banning traffic in the city and moving industries far away. Officials say the only possible relief would be an underground train network, planned since the 1970s but never built.

"Athens has no choice but to develop underground. We have made a proposal to unify all archaeological areas with bridges and subways so tourists could actually walk from one site to another without going on the streets," Skalaiois said.

A city plan drawn up under Manos when he was a conservative city planning minister in the 1970s was acclaimed by experts for effectively decentralising Athens. But the socialists who came to power in 1981 decided to start again.

"They overturned everything. It was a colossal mistake to stop and redesign from scratch. It's like bringing in new architects while you are building your house? The house never finishes," Manos said.

The lack of a permanent plan results in this chaos we have here," he said.



Tea-time: Betty puts tiny Mr Chips in a tea cup.

When things happen, Francis tells you

LAMBOURN, England, (AP): Writers often deny that their motives are in any way autobiographical. Not Dick Francis, the former royal jockey who is one of the world's favourite thriller writers.

"The main characters I use in my books are autobiographical," Francis says. "I am not as clever or brave as they are, but they have my characteristics a lot."

Not entirely, of course. Francis has never been shot, hunted down by a fleet of taxicabs or thrown off a balcony. But the unvarying backdrop of his novels — the world of horse racing — is very much part of his previous life as a jockey.

Francis' newest hero is called John Kendall, and he is — you guessed it — a writer. He appears in "Longshot," Francis' 29th novel, to be published in Britain and the United States this fall.

"Things happen," Francis says, "im-

provisably. That's all I'm going to tell you." Francis was relaxing over a cup of coffee in the living room of Folly House, the Lambourn stable and home of his horse-trainer son, Merrick. It is big, light and comfortable, and filled

with horse-racing pictures and half a dozen affectionate dogs and cats.

As Dick Francis devotes ought to know, this compact, prosperous village in rolling Berkshire about 60 miles (96 kilometres) west of London is the heart of English steeplechasing.

Roofs are thatched, hedges neat. Large, big-eyed hunters clip-clop along the twisting roads.

Francis, who lives in the United States, was in England for the Grand National, England's — if not the world's — greatest horse race. It's the one he never misses and the one he lost famously in 1956 while riding the Queen Mother's Devon Loch. The horse simply collapsed in the final strides, with a clear field.

Francis, 69, is reserved among inquisitive strangers, but polite and unpretentious for somebody who has sold more than 20 million books in 22 languages around the world.

The youngest of two sons, Francis was born into a horse-racing family in south Wales, and rode a donkey at age 5 "the first mount I had."

Missing school regularly for hunts

and competitions, he left altogether at age 15 to help his father, a horse dealer. He wanted to be a jockey, but his parents balked. "They knew all the trials and tribulations."

After World War II, in which he flew bombers, Francis became a gofer for a Cheshire trainer, George Owen. Like his father, he was too big for flat races. But in that year he became an amateur steeplechase rider and within 18 months went professional.

His riding career flourished and in 1953 Francis joined trainer Peter Cazalet's yard, where Queen Mother Elizabeth kept her horses. Francis became the Queen Mum's No. 1 jockey for four seasons and during the 1953-1954 season he realised one of his two great ambitions. To be champion jockey by winning the most races that year.

The other, to win the Grand National, proved more elusive.

Francis blames Devon Loch's collapse on the stunning roar of the crowd excited by the prospect of the first royal win since 1900.

"As I was in mid-air over the last jump, I could hear this crescendo build-

ing up," Francis says. "I was just riding out with my hands and heels. The horse just collapsed under me."

"I had to get off him and walk away in disgust. It was a terrible moment."

Hurling around courses, Francis broke his collarbone 12 times, his nose five times, his back, his skull, his wrist and numerous ribs.

As his bones took longer to knit, he

got out of racing, in top, in January 1957. He was 36 and in 10 years as a jockey had won a creditable 345 out of 2,305 races.

He wrote his autobiography, "Sport of Queens," and was racing correspondent for the Daily Express for 16 years.

His wife, Mary Francis, prodded him into writing his first novel to help pay for their two sons' school fees and replace a threadbare carpet.

"Dead Cert" was published in 1962 and Francis immediately found his formula. A gallant, idiosyncratic hero with a tie to horse-racing. A "Dirty

Deed," as he calls it. Suspense. Some bone-crunching violence. A little romance. Triumph over evil. "A bitter-sweet ending."

Poet Philip Larkin once praised "the absolute sureness of his settings, the freshness of his characters, the terrifying climaxes of violence, the literate jauntness of style, the unfailing intelligent compassion..."

Some critics recently have found his powers flagging. But to have pulled off nine best-sellers, all set in the narrow world of horses, is an unusual achievement. Since "Whip Hand," which was published in 1981, all his books have made US best-seller lists.

Francis says he pays no attention to critics, and he doesn't pretend to write great literature.

In 1986, the Francises moved to a condominium in Florida because his wife, who suffers from asthma, could no longer tolerate the English climate. Francis visits England three times a year. He usually begins a book in January, finishes it in May, and spends the rest of the year travelling and researching his next novel.

Francis usually takes a long morning walk and goes for a swim. Then he writes by hand for five hours — "I like to see a sentence on a page, see how it flows" — and finally copies his words into a word processor.

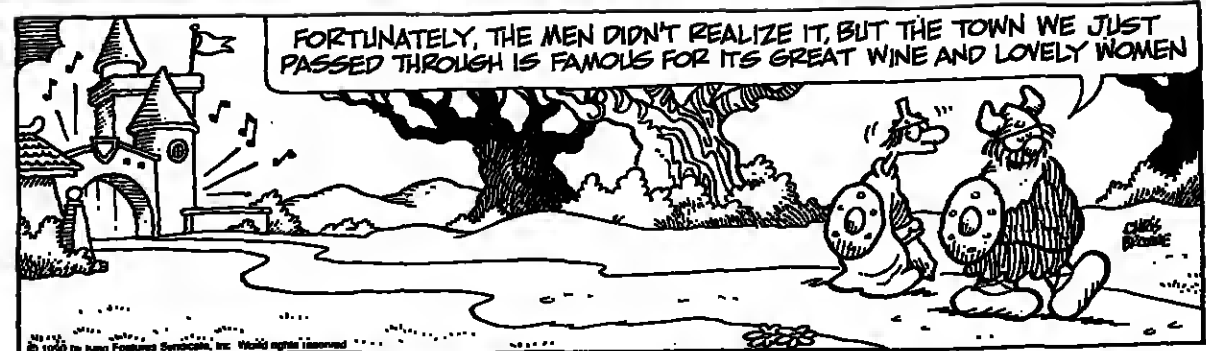


Child-care expert Dr. Berry Brazelton talks to a young patient at his Cambridge clinic. He hopes to give a better quality of life to infants in the developing world. (WNL)

BLONNIE - FUNNY



WAGAR THE HORRIBLE - FUNNY



AGATHA CRUM - FUNNY



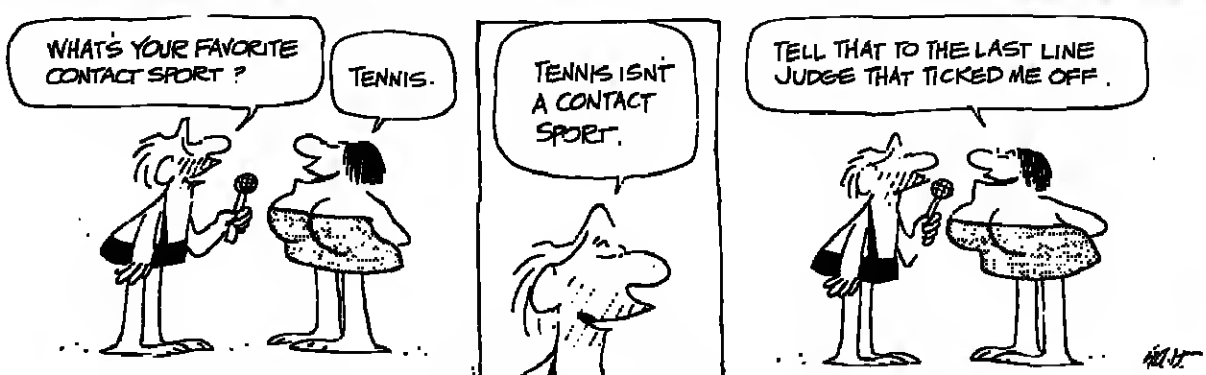
THE DOG IS - FUNNY



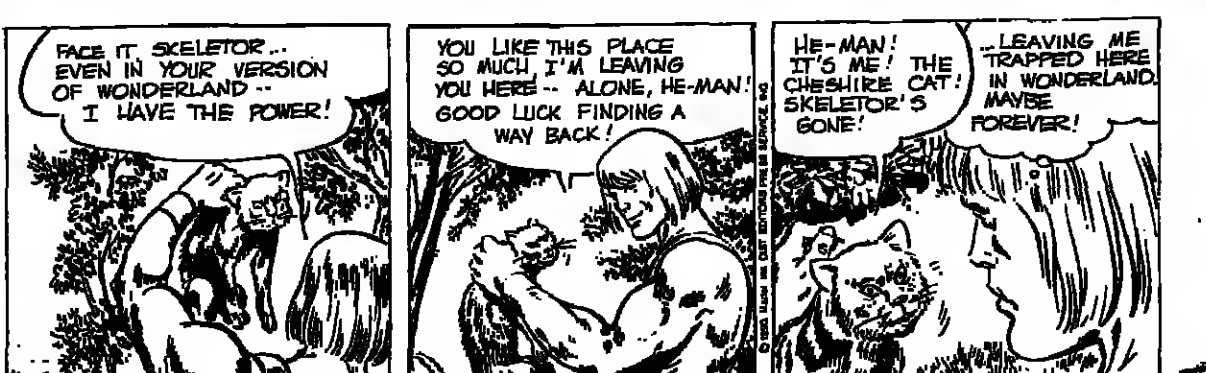
ANDY CAPP - FUNNY



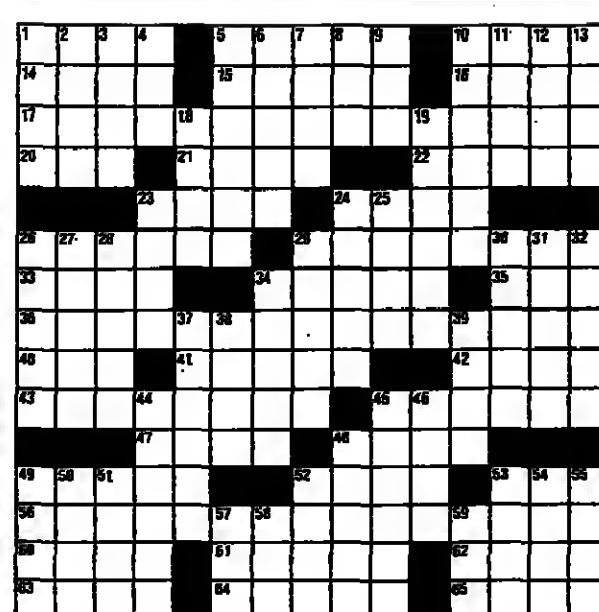
B.C. - FUNNY



HE-MAN - FUNNY



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Curse
 - Barton or Bow
 - Asian desert
 - Town of the Oke
 - Seraglio
 - Landed
 - Elizabeth I's privater
 - Boulder
 - Signs
 - Young eel
 - Like some lingerie
 - Entertainer
 - Coles
 - Tranquility
 - Ancient Greek wine pitcher
 - Nazimove
 - Dot on the map
 - Kind of verb: Abbr.
 - Discoverer of Florida
 - Cutting tool
 - Middle of EAP
 - Coffeemakers
 - Toppers
 - Eradicate
 - Glowing
 - Piece for baby
 - In the lead
 - Actress Daniels of old flicks
 - Sunday seat
 - Founder of San Diego
 - Ceremonial
 - Benefit
 - Goddess of discord
 - Like good cheese
 - Center
 - Jacob's spouse
- DOWN**
- Autumn pear
 - Big moment at the opera
 - With "The" e Larry Shur comedy
 - North Pole employee
 - Opportunity
 - Tell and thin
 - Circle segments
 - Defendants, in law
 - Mornings, briefly
 - It comes in cloes
 - Popular name in Oslo
 - Two-wheeler
 - Roman road
 - Estuaries
 - Mean
 - Bank
 - transaction
 - of Troy
 - United
 - India ruler of old
 - Slip by
 - Simon's "—"
 - Coveted award
 - Glyphics lead-in
 - University of Maine locale
 - Artist Max
 - Dental work
 - Far East temple
 - Nemesakes of violinist Bull
 - Entice
 - Hung loosely
 - Open
 - Equal
 - Military toppers
 - Taj Mahal sits
 - Former Secretary of State
 - Ferrara family
 - Rosary unit
 - Diagram for rope
 - Author-director
 - Kazan
 - Lauder
 - Coco
 - dweller
 - 506, to Cato
 - Aviv

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

DOA BAIL SAT
BAIRNS ALTD ILE
ALSACE DISGORGE
DISCHARGE SKEIN
PLD DENO ANDY
PRIERES SCAP
OER LEA ELIDED
ELL DISTILL IRE
MYTHIC ETO SIN
ORIG ATTACKS
ALAI TOLL UNO
RUSSE DISFIGURE
DISTRESS ALERTS
OSE MDOT ALLSET
RET ANNIS ESE

COREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
 ♠AJ109 ♥AJ9 ♦AK543 ♣K
 The bidding has proceeded:
 West North East South
 1 ♠ 2 ♥* Pass ?
 * weak
 What do you bid now?
 A.—There are all sorts of scientific bids you could make, but it is unlikely you will ever find out exactly what partner holds. No matter how poor a vulnerable weak jump overcall partner has, there should be play for slam. Jump to six hearts.
- Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:**
 ♠KQJ10 ♥K104 ♦AJ65 ♣32
 The bidding has proceeded:
 North East South West
 1 ♦ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
 2 NT Pass ?
 What do you bid now?
 A.—You definitely intend going to slam, perhaps even grand slam, but you do not yet know where to play the hand, particularly since partner's opening bid might have been made on a 50-50 suit. However, for the moment you need to do no more than bid three diamonds. That is 100 percent forcing and partner's next bid might throw some light on the situation.
- Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
 ♠AK1064 ♥Q ♦J104 ♣AKJ4
 Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with four hearts. What action do you take?
 A.—If you don't get into the auction with this hand, you are going to let your opponents steal you blind. Four spades could be the winning action, but it strikes us as being too unilateral. We prefer a double as the more flexible bid.
- Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:**
 ♠94 ♥6 ♦AK10743 ♣AKQ62
 The bidding has proceeded:
 South West North East
 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
 3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
 ?
 What do you bid now?
 A.—There is no reason why you should do anything other than complete a description of your hand: Bid four clubs. That tells partner you have at least 10 cards in the minor suits, and leaves him in position to judge the possibilities of the combined holding.
- Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:**
 ♠963 ♥J4 ♦KJ65 ♣8762
 The bidding has proceeded:
 North East South West
 1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
 3 ♠ Pass ?
 What do you bid now?
 A.—You started with a poor hand, and partner's powerful bidding has done nothing to improve it. This could easily be a hand where a 10-trick contract makes, but an 11-trick one goes down. Despite your four clubs, take a preference to three spades. Don't bid no trump with an unstopped suit.
- Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
 ♠94 ♥6 ♦AK10743 ♣AKQ62
 The bidding has proceeded:
 South West North East
 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
 3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
 ?
 What do you bid now?
 A.—There is no reason why you should do anything other than complete a description of your hand: Bid four clubs. That tells partner you have at least 10 cards in the minor suits, and leaves him in position to judge the possibilities of the combined holding.



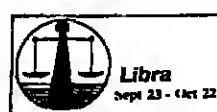
YOUR STARS



Aries
 March 21 - April 20
 There is no point in trying to change the inevitable. However, do try harder to distinguish between what can and cannot be altered. Not a good time for a new project, best to wait for a day or two. Be candid.



Cancer
 June 21 - July 20
 Others are lazy, but that is no excuse for you to follow suit. Make sure you do not expose yourself too long at a time to the sun. You will have an unexpected expenditure so will have to cut down elsewhere. Be less selfish.



Libra
 Sept 23 - Oct 22
 The more you can rely on yourself the better for you. Do not place too much trust in luck or coincidence. Do not place too much reliance upon "patent" medicines or curative waters. Be reliable.



Capricorn
 Dec 23 - Jan 19
 By listening carefully to what others are saying you will be able to draw the right conclusions. Try not to allow your preconceptions to stand in the way of a fair and proper assessment. A tendency towards exaggerations should be counteracted. Be generous.



Taurus
 April 21 - May 20
 If you rely on luck you will fail, far better to rely on your own judgement. Better to err on the side of caution just now. You should do all you can more to stay on good terms with your colleagues. Be sensible.



Leo
 July 21 - Aug 21
 Show a little more readiness to help others, and they in their turn will return the compliment. You are wrong if you think that the world exists for you alone. Check your facts and avoid acting on assumptions. Be smart.



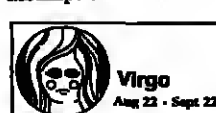
Scorpio
 Oct 23 - Nov 22
 You know you are right but would do well out to make too great an issue of the fact. If you make a few concessions you will ultimately gain more than you give up. Do your best to avoid getting into an argument. Be lenient.



Aquarius
 Jan 20 - Feb 19
 Give yourself enough room for manoeuvre and do not do the first thing that comes to mind. Try to give as much as if not more than you take. Things will tend to take longer than you had expected so do not dawdle. Be to the point.



Gemini
 May 21 - June 20
 You will not find it easy to do what has to be done. But do not think it will just go away if you wait — it will not. Your lucky numbers are 8 and 23. Determination and perseverance are what is needed right now. Be sincere.



Virgo
 Aug 23 - Sept 22
 An old friend will come to you and thank you for your advice. However do tell him if your advice is based on guesswork or speculation rather than on certainty. Do not fall behind with debt payments and do not become too reliant on credit. Be polite.



Sagittarius
 Nov 23 - Dec 21
 Something you had thought would be difficult will prove to be a lot easier than you have thought. However you must beware of belittling the difficulties that exist. Take care on the road whether driving or walking. Be cautious.



Pisces
 Feb 20 - March 20
 Once you have made up your mind with what you have decided upon, do stand up for your rights but without trying to have your own way in all things. What may at first seem like a good opportunity should be carefully examined it may well be ooth of the kind.



فكرنا اننا لنصل

Gonzalez remains undefeated

INGLEWOOD, California, July 24. (AP) Undefeated Humberto Gonzalez successfully defended his World Boxing Council light flyweight championship title for the fourth time last night with a fifth round technical knockout over Jung-Kun Lim.

Gonzalez, of Mexico City, Mexico, had floored Lim, of Pusan, South Korea, with a left hand late in the fourth round and opened the fifth with a flurry of punches including a powerful right hand that spun Lim around.

Referee Rudy Ortega stopped the fight 34 seconds into the fifth round.

The 24-year-old Gonzalez, weighing 107 1/4 pounds (48.58 kilograms), raised his record to 28-0 with 22 knockouts. He had planned to pressure Lim, 107 1/2 (48.70), each round.

Lim, 25, was rated the top contender by the WBC. He fell to 12-5 with four knockouts and was outwitted by Gonzalez's switch punching.

Switched

Gonzalez opened the bout leading with his right, then late in the second round he switched to his left hand with Lim fighting defensively.

In the third, Gonzalez continued with punishing left upper cuts.

Lim came out fast in the fourth, driving Gonzalez to the ropes with a left to the jaw. Gonzalez spent most of the round on the ropes with Lim throwing punches after punches.

In the final 10 seconds of the fourth, Gonzalez roared off the ropes, and hauled out a straight left which floored Lim.

"Korean fighters are very tough," Gonzalez had said. He won his title 13 months ago with a decision over Lee Yul Woo in South Korea.

In an undercard, Jose Luis Vega Gil of Bell, California, came from behind to knock out Mike Phelps, Galena, Park, Texas in the eighth round of a scheduled 10-rounds bantamweight fight.

'Canada has overcome drug scandal'

SEATTLE, July 24. (AP) Canada's black eye from the Ben Johnson drug scandal has finally healed, long-distance runner Paul Williams says.

Williams, from Vancouver, British Columbia, was a surprise gold medalist Sunday in the 5,000 metres at the Goodwill Games. After the race, he told reporters his victory showed Canadian athletes can win without the use of steroids or any other kind of banned drug.

"It's been really difficult these past two years because of the Johnson scandal," Williams said. "Most Canadian athletes were tainted even if we did nothing wrong."

"It was a real mess but it's behind us now. We know we are clean and now you know we can win being clean."

Johnson tested positive for steroids after he won the 100-metre dash at the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul. His win was nullified. Last summer, Johnson admitted to long-term steroid use at a Canadian inquiry into drug use by amateur athletes.

His two-year suspension from competition, imposed by the International Amateur Athletics Federation, expires Sept. 24.

US sprinter Carl Lewis, the world record holder in the 100 metres, said Johnson would always be under a cloud of suspicion for his past drug use, but Lewis wouldn't rule out racing against the Toronto sprinter again.

Rosberg joins Peugeot team

PARIS, July 24. (Reuters) Former world motor racing champion Keke Rosberg of Finland has agreed to come out of retirement to drive for Peugeot in the world sportscar championship, Peugeot said yesterday.

Rosberg will partner Frenchman Jean-Pierre Jabouille for the official racing debut of the new Peugeot 905 in the Canadian leg of this year's sportscar championship on September 23.

They will also take part in the season's final event in Mexico in October.

Peugeot said in a statement that Rosberg, the 1982 Formula One world champion, will drive in the 1991 championship. Together with Jabouille, the Finn will be responsible for the development of the 905.

Rosberg quit Formula One racing in 1986 after nine years during which he won five grand prix. He clinched the championship for Williams in 1982 before joining the McLaren team.

Hirwani takes a hammering

India, Leicestershire draw



Hirwani got two wickets for 103 runs

LEICESTER, England, July 24. (Reuters) Leg spinner Narendra Hirwani suffered heavy punishment in India's tame draw with Leicestershire on Monday.

Hirwani, who took 16 wickets on his Test debut against the West Indies two years ago, dismissed century-maker Justin Benson and opener Laurie Potter but he conceded 103 runs off 21 overs on the final day of the three-day game.

The battering may have cost him a place in the opening Test against England, starting at Lord's on Thursday.

Benson, dropped on eight, raced to his maiden first class century off 124 balls. He hit 12 fours and three sixes in 106.

The country's second innings total of 298 for seven declared set the tourists an unrealistic 248 target off only 31 overs.

England fast bowler Chris Lewis removed openers Navjot Sidhu and Manoj Prabhakar in India's token reply of 54 for two.

Scoreboard

LEICESTERSHIRE first innings 310 (overnight 35 for one)
Fall of wickets: 1-25 2-108 3-181 4-234 5-274 6-274 7-281
Bowling: Prabhakar 5-3-6-0, Sharma 13-2-52-0, Wassen 15-0-56-1, Raju 28-6-73-4, Hirwani 21-0-103-2

LEICESTERSHIRE second innings (overnight 35 for one)
T. Boon c Hirwani b Wassen 18
L. Potter b Hirwani 30
J. Benson c Prabhakar b Hirwani 106
P. Willis b Raju 78
C. Lewis c Prabhakar b Raju 28
P. Nixon hit wkt b Raju 13
W. Benjamin b Raju 0
G. Parsons not out 11
J. Whitaker not out 7
Extras (lb 6 w 1 nb 2) 11
Total (seven wickets declared) 298

Fall of wickets: 1-25 2-108 3-181 4-234 5-274 6-274 7-281
Bowling: Prabhakar 5-3-6-0, Sharma 13-2-52-0, Wassen 15-0-56-1, Raju 28-6-73-4, Hirwani 21-0-103-2

INDIA second innings
M. Prabhakar c Nixon b Lewis 13
N. Sidhu b Lewis 6
S. Manjrekar not out 3
S. Tendulkar not out 25
Extras (lb 6 nb 1) 7
Total (for two wickets) 54
Fall of wickets: 1-20 2-25
Bowling: Lewis 8-3-23-2, Benjamin 4-1-8-0, Mulally 5-0-17-0, Parsons 2-0-0-0
Result: Match drawn.
Next match: First Test at Lord's, July 26-31.

Hick 'unbeaten' on 540

LONDON, July 24. (Reuters) Zimbabwean Graeme Hick took his unbeaten scoring sequence to 540 from four innings over five days in the county cricket championship yesterday.

Hick, who qualifies to play for England next year, was 48 not out in Worcestershire's second innings 215 for one against Glamorgan at Aberavenny on the second day of their three-day match.

Glamorgan had declared their first innings closed at 327 for five, taking the run total on another sun-drenched day to 1,056 in two days.

England newcomer John Morris warmed up for his Test debut against India at Lord's on Thursday with an unbeaten 157 against Hampshire.

Morris's hundred, his fifth of the season, came from just 226 deliveries with 28 fours and a six. His innings boosted Derbyshire's championship challenge, cushioning them to declare at 300 for six in the 84th over in reply to Hampshire's first innings 307.

David Gower, recalled to the England side, was bowled by fast bowler Ian Bishop for three before Hampshire rallied to 173 for five in their second innings.

Bishop's West Indian team mate Malcolm Marshall, playing his last county season, hit 60 for Hampshire.

Scores

At Northampton: Northamptonshire 329 for four declared in 98 overs and 110 for two, Sussex 302 for eight declared in 86.1 overs (P. Parker 90, J. Hall 42, C. Wells 42, N. Cook 40 for 89).
At Uxbridge: Somerset 445 for six declared in 147 overs (C. Tavaré 57, G. Rose 57) and 63 for one, Middlesex 305 for four declared in 67.4 overs (M. Gatting 170 not out, K. Brown 46, D. Haynes 41).
At Aberavenny: Worcestershire 514 for four declared in 97.2 overs and 215 for one (T. Curtis 81 not out, P. Bennett 79, G. Hick 48 not out), Glamorgan 327 for five declared in 69.1 overs (P. Cottee 100 not out, A. Butcher 79, H. Morris 57, V. Richards 41).
At Cheltenham: Yorkshire 451 for six declared in 99 overs, Gloucestershire 458 for six (P. Bainbridge 132 not out, A. Wright 78, R. Jones 41).

The 34-year-old all-rounder was left out of the team which toured the West Indies this year and has not figured in any of the England squads for the series against New Zealand and India.

Four Middlesex players yet to play international cricket — batsmen Mark Ramprakash and Mike Roseberry, left-arm spinner Phil Tufnell and paceman Neil Williams — have also been included.

Nottinghamshire batsman Paul Johnson and Lancashire wicketkeeper Warren Hegg are other players asked to reply to the Test and County Cricket Board (CCB) by August 3.

"This list is likely to be increased over the next three weeks and every player qualified for England will still have an opportunity to stake a claim for a tour place prior to the time of selection of the party early in September," CCB spokesman Peter Smith said.



Graeme Hick



John Morris



Ian Botham



Malcolm Marshall

W. Athey 68, G. Hodgson 65, P. Romaine 46).

At Colchester: Lancashire 395 for nine declared in 100.4 overs and 104 for two (N. Fairbrother 51 not out, Essex 300 for nine declared in 84.1 overs (N. Shahid 125, D. Pringle 45, N. Hussain 40).

At Guildford: Kent 372 in 90.2 overs and 62 for three, Surrey 344 for seven declared in 106.3 overs (I. Greg 89 not out, M. Feltham 55, D. Ward 48, G. Thorpe 42).

At Portsmouth: Hampshire 307 and 173 for five (M. Marshall 60) Derbyshire 300 for six declared (J. Morris 157 not out).

Ian Botham has been included in the list of 43 England players asked to confirm their availability for the cricket tour of Australia this year.

The 34-year-old all-rounder was left out of the team which toured the

Keeneland sale average falls 14pc

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky, July 24. (Reuters) A filly by Danzig out of American champion Gold Beauty brought the highest price of nearly \$2 million on the first day of the two-day Keeneland Selected Yearling Sale yesterday.

But prices at the leading American sale of young racing prospects declined by 14.1 per cent from last year's first session.

The day's highest price, \$1.85 million, was paid by the Shadwell Estate Co. Ltd of Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, a member of the ruling family of Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

The bay filly was one of three yearlings that sold for more than \$1 million on a day when 113 yearlings sold for a gross of \$34,475,000 and an average of \$305,088.

On the comparable day last year, 134 horses sold for \$47.6 million, or an average of \$355,269.

The drop was not unexpected to many observers, and sales company director Rogers Beasley said he was not overly concerned about the drop. After sharp declines since 1984, average prices had turned upward last year.

Gainsborough Stud, owned by Sheikh Maktoum Al Maktoum, paid \$1.2 million for a colt by Alydar out of the Seattle Slew mare Tax Dodge.

The Curragh Bloodstock Co., which often buys for Arab interests, purchased a Blushing Groom colt who is a full brother to European winner Digamist for \$1.05 million.

A full sister to American champion Alysheba was sold for \$950,000 to Clarence Scharbauer of Texas, whose family also owns Alysheba. Scharbauer's wife and daughter paid \$500,000 for Alysheba as a yearling at the 1985 sale.

Faldo seeks to design course for British Open

ST ANDREWS, Scotland, July 24. (AP) Nick Faldo's immediate target is the US PGA Championship in Birmingham, Alabama.

His long range ambition, he said yesterday in the wake of his British Open victory, is the accumulation of more and more major golf titles.

But his career goal involves designing a links course to be used by the future British Open.

"That's the ultimate goal," Faldo said.

"I've talked with Michael Bonallack (secretary of the R and A) and I asked him if I could get hold of a piece of links land and design a course, would it be considered for the British Open. He said it would," Faldo said.

"The problem is that there just isn't that much links land available. But that would be the ultimate goal, to design a course for the Open."

To accommodate those goals, Faldo said he would "drastically reduce" his playing schedule, concentrate on the game's big four events — the US Masters, US and British Opens and the US PGA — and continue the formation of a gold course design and construction company.

"It's underway now," he said. "There are a lot of things in the pipeline. I'll be interviewing architects, getting things put together, in the next few months."

Of more immediate concern, said the tall Englishman who won the last two US Masters and the 1987 and '90 British Opens, is the US PGA, the last of the year's major championships.

"Obviously, the weather, the heat and the humidity, will be the big factor," said Faldo, the first man in eight years to win two majors in a single season and now firmly established as the world's premier player.

"I think I have a bell of a chance in Birmingham," said Faldo.

"I need to calm down a bit from this one, relax a bit. I think I can come down, then get myself focused again for the PGA" in two weeks.

But for a lipped-out putt on the 72nd hole of the US Open last month — putt that kept him out of a title playoff — he conceivably could be going for the unaccomplished Grand Slam, a one-year sweep of all four major professional titles.

"I've come close this year,



Nick Faldo in action during the British Open



Faldo (left) with another golfing star Greg Norman during the Open

haven't I?" He said. "I suppose that shows the Grand Slam is possible, but very, very difficult."

He said he also plans to play in the International at Castle Rock, Colorado, and the World Series of Golf in Akron, Ohio, immediately following the PGA.

He will not, he said, play in the multi-dollar Nahisco Championship as a condition of his season. Even if he qualified, he would not be eligible to compete.

"The International and the World Series will give me nine (US tournaments for the year), so I can't play Nahisco," said

Faldo, a non-member of the US PGA Tour and thus limited in the number of US events he can play each year.

Faldo said he will, in the future, arrange his schedule to concentrate on the acquisition of more major titles.

David Leadbetter, his teacher and coach, "told me I could win two a year. Even one a year would be fantastic, one every two years."

"I'm 33. I want to go hard at it for 10 years, through this decade," Faldo said, then reconsidered. "May be five years would be more realistic."

Players plan court action

LAS VEGAS, Nevada, July 24. (UPI) Attorney Steve Stein said yesterday he has been contacted by UNLV players about initiating legal action in an attempt to overturn an NCAA ruling that prevents the Rebels from defending their national title in the 1990-91 basketball season.

"The probability (of court action) is high and should happen soon," Stein said in an interview with KVBC-TV, Channel 3 in Las Vegas.

Any legal action would not involve the university nor would it be linked to the university's plan to appeal to the NCAA to reconsider its infractions committee action that bans the Rebels from all post-season play.

Stein made it clear that court action would be solely on behalf of the players.

"They want some action. They are not happy. They are hurt. They feel they should not be penalized for something that occurred when they were six or seven years old," said Stein.

He said the players feel "they are being penalized, not the university and not the coaching staff."

The Las Vegas lawyer did not say whether he would file action in state or federal court and declined to discuss what a suit would allege. Observers speculated litigation could revolve around civil rights violations or possibly seek damages.

Daniel beats Sheehan in playoff

VIENNA, Ohio, July 24. (AP) Beth Daniel overcame a 2-stroke deficit on the final three holes, then rolled in a 12-foot birdie putt on the first hole of a sudden-death playoff and beat Patty Sheehan yesterday in the rain-delayed \$400,000 LPGA-Pan-Mor Youngstown Classic.

Daniel earned the \$60,000 first prize, plus a \$50,000 bonus for being the leading money-winner in Pan-Mor Drugstore's two events at Inverrary and Youngstown this year.

Daniel began the final round Sunday with a two-stroke lead, and she still led by two when play resumed on the sixth hole yesterday following the 18-hour delay.

But Sheehan, who was four strokes from the lead at the beginning of the round of Sunday, shot a 3-under-par 69 on the last 18 holes, while Daniel was 1 over at 73. Both finished the 54 holes at 9-under 207.

They returned to the par-4 16th hole for the playoff — the same hole Daniel had birdied an hour earlier to get within a stroke of the lead. Sheehan had bogeyed No. 17, sending her approach shot over the green and necessitating the playoff.

Sheehan's approach on the playoff hole left her about 15 feet below the hole, and her putt for birdie rolled about four feet past it. Daniel followed by hitting the 12-footer for the birdie.

Danielle Amaccapane shot par 72 on the Squaw Creek Country Club course to finish third at 208, 8-under and one stroke from the leaders, Debbie Massie, with a 73, and Ayako Okamoto, with 71, both finished at 209.

Sheehan continued a string of six straight top-two finishes. She won two of those and finished second in four others, including last week's US Women's Open.

Daniel has won three tournaments this year, and she increased her 1990 earnings to \$370,532, not counting the \$50,000 bonus. Sheehan earned \$37,000 and leads the LPGA money list with \$492,474.

Sunday's final round was interrupted until yesterday because of heavy rains. Sheehan was on the par-3 sixth hole, awaiting a 3-foot birdie putt, when play was stopped Sunday.

French hail LeMond, worry about local cyclists

PARIS, July 24. (AP) Greg LeMond has become a hero to the French press and public, but his repeat victory in the Tour de France didn't mask disappointment over the worst showing by French riders since 1925.

Some young Frenchmen showed promise at different points during the three-week race, but the best of them — Fabrice Philpot — placed only 14th. In 76 previous Tours, Frenchmen won 40 times.

Yesterday, the day after LeMond's decisive victory, French sports writers were left to speculate whether he could join Belgian Eddie Merckx and France's two cycling immortals — Jacques Anquetil and Bernard Hinault — as the only five-time winner of the Tour.

Most

LeMond has now won three titles — in 1986, 1989 and 1990 — placing him in a three-way tie for the most victories after Merckx, Anquetil and Hinault.

LeMond, 29, made clear he wants to keep racing. He said Sunday he expects to compete in the Tour at least three more times.

Hinault contended yesterday that French cycling was not in a crisis, although he acknowledged that the best-known of his countrymen — Laurent Fignon and Charles Mottet — had been disappointments.

Fignon dropped out early, suffering from leg injuries and low spirits. Mottet finished 49th.



LeMond: third Tour victory

Spain was the dominant country this year, placing four cyclists in the top 10.

"If there hadn't been a Span-

iard in the top 10 in the Vuelta (Spain's premier cycling event), it would have been shameful," said Jose Miguel Echavari, one of

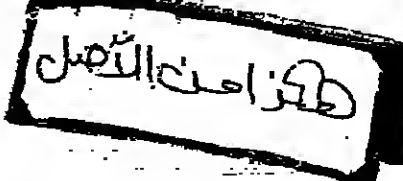


Chiappucci: rode well

the managers for Spanish star Pedro Delgado.

France did have its moments. Thierry Claveyrolat won one of

the spectacular high-mountain stages in the Alps, and Ronan Pensec — one of LeMond's teammates — held the overall



Clavet upsets Novacek in opener

HILVERSUM, Netherlands, July 24, (Reuters) Defending champion Karel Novacek of Czechoslovakia was knocked out in the first round of the Dutch Open tennis tournament yesterday's by late Spanish entry Francisco Clavet.

Clavet, who entered the tournament

because Frenchmen Henri Leconte withdrew at the last minute, gained a hard-fought 7-6 7-6 victory over eighth-seeded Novacek.

Top seed Emilio Sanchez of Spain, beaten by Novacek in last year's final, does not make his entry till Tuesday when he faces Dutchman Tom Nijssen, a

wild card entry.

French Open champion Andre Gomez of Ecuador withdrew from the tournament, like Leconte, at the last minute.

Results

Paul Haarhuis (Netherlands) beat Alberto Mancini (Argentina) 6-2 6-2; Eduardo Masso (Belgium) beat Goran Prpic (Yugoslavia) 7-5

6-3; Wally Masur (Australia) beat Jaime Yzaga (Peru) 7-6 4-6 6-2; Olivier Delaire (France) beat Jordi Arrese (Spain) 6-1 6-0; Sergi Brugera (Spain) beat 6-Carl Uwe Steeb (West Germany) 6-3 6-1; Ronald Agener (Haiti) beat Franco Davin (Argentina) 6-3 6-1; Francisco Clavet (Spain) beat 8-Karel Novacek (Czechoslovakia) 7-6 7-6; Tomas Carbonell (Spain) beat Roberto Azar (Argentina) 7-6 3-6 6-3.

Rose must get place in Hall of Fame

WASHINGTON, July 24, (UPI) If Richard Nixon can be hailed as a hero after resigning the presidency in disgrace, Pete Rose should be a cinch for baseball's Hall of Fame.

But Nixon could tell Rose, a man not noted for patience, that rehabilitating a public image takes time.

Sixteen years after the Watergate scandal evicted Nixon from the White House, red, white and blue balloons soared Thursday over Yorba Linda, California, and brass bands boomed in his honor.

His three Republican successors were there to praise him as a statesman and peacemaker at the dedication of the Richard Nixon Library and birthplace.

Meantime, in a courtroom in his own hometown of Cincinnati, a shamed and visibly shaken Rose got five months of hard time for tax evasion on top of his lifetime ban from baseball for gambling.

"I lost my dignity," said Rose, 39, his voice breaking. "I lost my self-respect."

The prison sentence was the ultimate humiliation for baseball's all-time hits leader, the disgraced former manager of his beloved Reds, the game's oldest franchise.

But Nixon, 77, was never even tried, thanks to a presidential pardon from Gerald Ford, who opened in Yorba Linda that his old boss "richly deserved" the library dedication.

Some people in the United States might find it difficult to believe that justice was served by a system that would imprison Rose and not even slap Nixon's wrist.

After all, Rose's tax-cheating did a lot less damage to the republic than Nixon's Watergate shenanigans.

The 19 records Rose holds should guarantee his election next year to baseball's Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

But the election rules say voting shall be based on a player's integrity and character, as well as on his record and playing ability. Unfortunately, some baseball scribes will use that lofty phrasing to justify voting against admitting Rose. But a lot of fans are pulling for Rose to make it from the pen to Cooperstown.

The Rev Billy Graham, who attended the library dedication, said:

"I have read a lot about Watergate, and I still don't understand why it became such a big deal."

In the great scheme of things, government is supposed to be more important than baseball. That is why errant public officials are more likely than sports figures to damage the public trust.

Those who insist on seeing baseball as a metaphor for life are likely to demand that sports heroes double as role models.

Rose won the most important record by collecting more hits than Ty Cobb, who was as notorious as a man as he was brilliant as a player.

Babe Ruth, for that matter, was no choirboy.

If Nixon can have a memorial library in Yorba Linda, Cooperstown surely needs a plaque for Charlie Hustle.

Nelson set to meet Laporte

ELBOURNE, Australia, July 4, (AP) Former title holder zumah Nelson of Ghana will face Puerto Rican Juan Laporte in an eliminator for the World Boxing Council super-featherweight championship in Sydney on September 7, promoter Bill Lordy announced today.

Nelson relinquished the title earlier this year and made an unsuccessful challenge for the 'BC lightweight title held by American Pernell Whitaker. He has a 31-2 record, Laporte 36-9-1.

Mordey said the winner of the fight would face Australian Jeff Meech for the title in November at a venue still to be decided. Fenwick was originally slated to fight former featherweight champion Laporte for the vacant title, but Laporte had to withdraw from the bout after suffering from a viral infection.

US blank Poland

Garrison, Capriati win

NORCROSS, Georgia, July 24, (AP) Zina Garrison, ranked No. 4 in the world, and teenage sensation Jennifer Capriati helped the defending champion United States beat Poland 3-0 in the first round of the Federation Cup yesterday.

Three other seeded teams also

posted 3-0 victories — third-seeded Austria over Bulgaria, sixth-seeded Italy over Finland and seventh-seeded Czechoslovakia over Korea.

In other matches, Japan advanced in the main draw with a 3-0 victory over China, Belgium edged

Sweden 2-1 and Australia blanked Indonesia 2-0, with doubles match being cancelled because of rain.

Garrison lost only 25 points in downing Katarzyna Nowak 6-0, 6-1 and the 14-year-old Capriati needed just 52 minutes to dispose of Magdalena Mrocz 6-3, 6-1.

Garrison then teamed with Gigi Fernandez for a 6-0, 6-0 doubles victory over the Polish pair of Mrocz and Renata Skrzypowska in hot, muggy conditions at the peach-orchard world of tennis.

The Federation Cup is the women's equivalent of the Davis Cup in men's international competition. Teams from 47 nations were in the field when the qualifying rounds began last Saturday. The event will run through Sunday.

Garrison is the only member of the current US team that played on last year's championship team in Tokyo. The Americans are favored to win again this year.

Nowak was facing the highest-ranked player in the competition after a 2-hour, 20-minute preliminary round battle on Sunday that saw her retire because of heat exhaustion, resulting in a 2-6, 6-4, 2-0 victory for Patricia Miller of Uruguay.

The heat didn't bother Garrison. "I grew up in this kind of weather," the Houston native said.

Poland's Mrocz, ranked 537th in the world, wasn't as bothered by the heat as she was the fast hard-court surface.

"In Poland we have no hard courts, only clay," Mrocz said. "We arrived so late here that we have no time to prepare. We play only two to three times each year on hard courts."

Austrians Judith Wiesner and Barbara Paulus lost only seven games as they advanced over Bulgaria. Wiesner beat Elena Pam-



Capriati watches her return against Mrocz. (Reuters wirephoto)

US 'will' stage '94 Cup

RIO DE JANEIRO, July 24, (Reuters) Fifa president Joao Havelange said yesterday's the United States would definitely stage the 1994 World Cup finals, effectively dismissing reports that the Americans were set to back down as hosts.

Asked at a news conference if he could confirm that the Americans would stage the 1994 competition, Havelange replied: "It has been confirmed since May 1988."

Leading soccer personalities said earlier this month the failure of the 1990 World Cup to arouse the interest of American television viewers meant the United States could soon back out of staging the 1994 finals.

Paul Breitner, a member of West Germany's 1974 World Cup-winning team, said in a newspaper column he had been told by a member of the US organizing committee that a decision to step down had already been made.

Havelange announced changes in the qualifying competition for the 1994 World Cup and said Europe would have only 12 guaranteed places.

Europe supplied 14 of the 1990 finalists, including hosts Italy. It was not clear whether Havelange's new figure included defending champions West Germany, who gain automatic entry to the finals.

Havelange did not mention Africa, who are pressing for

an increase in their representation from two teams to three following noteworthy performances by Cameroon and Egypt in Italy.

He said Asia would have two finalists, South America three and Concaef (North and Central America) two. Havelange did not say whether the US hosts were included in the Concaef quota.

Another place would be disputed between Europe and Asia, while a further place would be contested by South America and Concaef, he said.

Havelange said new methods for deciding drawn matches in the World Cup, to replace the controversial penalty shoot-out, would be discussed by Fifa at the end of the year.

Fifa's World Cup organizing committee, which has 21 member countries from five continents, would meet in December, discuss a report of the 1990 competition and then put forward any new proposals at a later meeting, he said.

He dismissed reports that the 1994 World Cup would be held in September instead of the traditional months of June and July, describing such a change as impossible because of the timing of the European domestic competitions.

Belgians to speak on German merger

BRUSSELS, July 24, (UPI) Belgium will make an official statement on the merger of the two German soccer federations before September, secretary-general Alain Courtois said yesterday.

"The financial implications are heavy," Courtois said, "and we are looking for an alternative friendly challenger such as Cameroon or Italy to play Belgium September 12, the scheduled date for the European championship qualifier against East Germany."

With a large part of the executive committee on holiday, no official stand is expected before the next meeting on August 10.

Ryan goes for 300th victory against Yankees

DALLAS, July 24, (AP) Nolan Ryan may have 46 Major League records, yet the numbers that mean the most to him are 5,000, 6 and 300.

The Texas Rangers ace hit the 5,000-strikeout plateau last year, pitched his sixth no-hitter last month and is a day away from pitching for his 300th victory.

"Five thousand and 300. Those are the only numbers that really mean something to me," Ryan said. "That, and six no-hitters, maybe."

Ryan, the all-time strikeout leader, struck out Ricky Henderson for No. 5,000 last summer and has added 202 since. His sixth no-hitter, against Oakland last month, came after several close calls since his record fifth in 1981.

Tomorrow night, Ryan goes for his 300th victory against the New York Yankees.

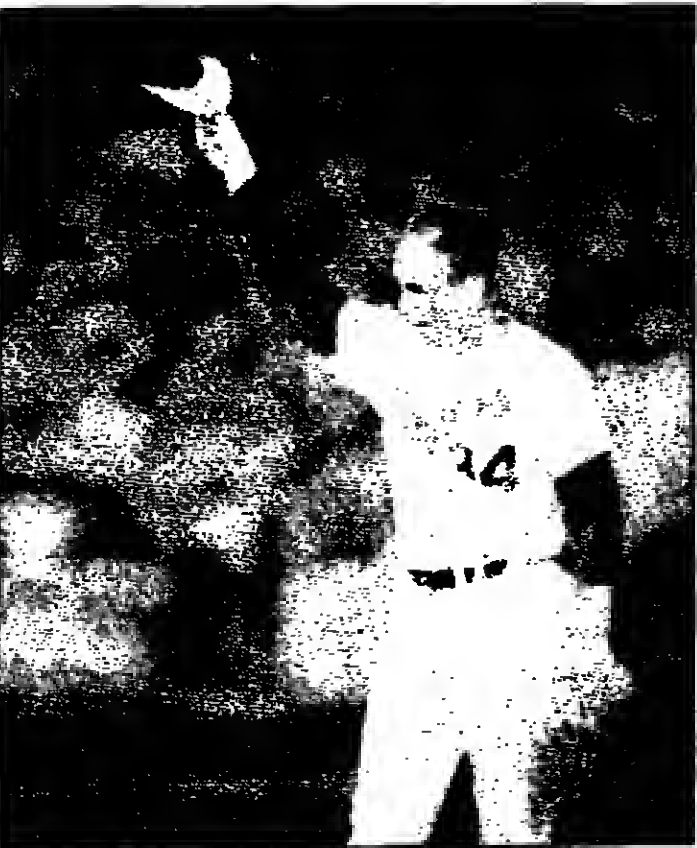
Ryan declined to discuss going for No. 300 until last Friday night, when he beat Detroit 5-3 for No. 299.

"Now I can start thinking about it," he said. "I don't think about no-hitters until the ninth or so. I didn't think about 5,000 until I was close and I didn't think about 300 until I had 299."

Just about everyone else has been thinking about it all season. And now, Ryanmania has struck again. Even Ryan is caught up in it, agreeing to a news conference today to accommodate the hundreds of interview requests.

Unlike some 300-win pitchers, Ryan is on a hot streak as he approaches the coveted number. Despite a back problem, Ryan is 5-0 with an 2.63 ERA in his last six starts.

"I feel good," Ryan said. "My back won't keep me from start-



Ryan, after he reached the 5,000-strikeout plateau

ing Wednesday, but it's just one of those things that'll need five weeks of rest to completely heal."

Rangers manager Bobbly Valentine said Ryan won't receive special treatment.

"He'll go as long as he can. I know how his back is," Valentine said.

Tomorrow night's game was sold out on July 20, the earliest sellout in Rangers history, said

Tanja Burgdorf in the team's public relations office.

Burgdorf said the Rangers expect about 500 reporters and photographers to chronicle Ryan's first crack at No. 300.

White Sox 3, Indians 1

In Chicago, Robin Ventura singled in two runs and Carlton Fisk hit his 344th career home run as the White Sox snapped a four-game losing streak.

Winner Greg Hibbard (8-5)

went seven innings, allowing seven hits, walking one and striking out two. Barry Jones pitched the eighth and Bobby Thigpen finished for his 32nd save, most in the Major Leagues.

Losers Tom Candiotti (10-6) went the distance, giving up three runs on six hits.

Cleveland took a 1-0 lead in the second inning on an RBI single by Cory Snyder, but the White Sox moved ahead 2-1 in the third. Dave Gallagher and Ozzie Guillen singled and moved up on a sacrifice bunt by Lance Johnson before Ventura singled them both home.

Rangers 3, Yankees 2

In Texas, Kevin Brown pitched a four-hitter for the Rangers, his AL-leading sixth complete game of the season.

Brown (12-7) had his consecutive scoreless inning streak at home snapped at 29 when Steve Sax led off the game with a home run. Rookie Kevin Maas hit another home run for New York in the seventh.

Ruben Sierra, in a 1-for-17 slump, gave the Rangers the lead with a two-run single in the fifth off loser Chuck Cary (4-6). In five innings, Cary allowed three runs, six hits, and struck out seven.

Texas tied it 1-1 in the second on John Russell's run-scoring chopper to the mound.

Brewers 13, Red Sox 0

In Milwaukee, Robin Yount homered and drove in three runs for Milwaukee, which got a season-high 21 hits against the slumping Red Sox.

The Brewers' outburst, which topped their 20-hit attack in an 18-0 win over Boston on April 16, helped right-hander Mark Knudson win his third straight

game.

Knudson (8-4), who allowed six hits, equalled his career high for victories with his second shutout in his last three starts.

The Brewers scored three runs in the second off Mike Boddicker (11-6), then drove him out in a four-run fourth inning.

Expos 5, Pirates 0

In Montreal, Dennis Martinez pitched a four-hitter and Tim Lincecum drove in four runs, leading Montreal past Pittsburgh.

Martinez (17-7) struck out eight and walked one for his second shutout and fourth complete game of the season. The right-hander had lost three of his previous four decisions.

Wallach's two-run single highlighted a three-run first inning against John Smiley (4-5), who lost his sixth straight decision to Montreal. Smiley has not defeated the Expos since winning 5-1 at Olympic Stadium on June 25, 1988.

Cubs 3, Cardinals 1

In St. Louis, Greg Maddux allowed St. Louis one run in 8 2-3 innings and drove in the winning run as Chicago won its eighth straight.

Mark Grace added an RBI single in the eighth as Chicago made it eight in a row for the first time since May 20-28.

Results

American League

Baltimore 13 Detroit 3

Chicago 3 Cleveland 1

Milwaukee 13 Boston 0

Texas 3 New York 2

Oakland 7 California 6

National League

Montreal 5 Pittsburgh 0

Philadelphia 7 New York 4

Atlanta 3 Houston 1

Chicago 3 St. Louis 1

Cincinnati 9 San Diego 2

Los Angeles 11 San Francisco 1



Al Hajri in his Rothmans Ford Bronco.

Al Hajri to contest Jordan Raid

MIDDLE EAST Rally ace, Saeed Al Hajri, will contest next week's 'Jordan Cross Country Raid' in a faster and flatter Rothmans Ford Bronco.

The sensational Bronco, dubbed the "Mean Machine", has benefited from a number of modifications since its convincing win in Oman earlier this year.

In particular, it now boasts a Ford C6 automatic gearbox, the first time such a transmission has been used in Middle East competition.

Commented Al Hajri during recent testing: "On the Dubai and Oman events I experienced some limitations with the 5 speed manual box — but I had no idea the team engineers would change it for an automatic. I thought they were just for ordinary town cars! But automatic gearbox is fantastic. It

handles all the power from the engine whatever the conditions and I think my chances of winning in Jordan are excellent."

In fact, Al Hajri's C6 gearbox is used by all the top Ford off-road racers in the USA and is already proving itself ideal for Middle East conditions.

The 'Jordan Cross Country Raid' will be the toughest challenge yet for the Rothmans Ford Desert Racing Team, with a total length of 500km it contains over 300 km of selective sections run over every type of terrain.

The event, the third round of the 1990 BP 2000 Desert Challenge, starts from the Amman Intercontinental Hotel on the July 26, 1990 and finishes there on the July 27, 1990.

Peres wants to make soccer popular in US

NEW YORK, July 24, (AP) With the World Cup coming to the United States in 1994, Sporting Lisbon coach Marinho Peres says foreign clubs feel an obligation to enlighten North Americans on the popularity of soccer.

"People abroad don't understand why football isn't a popular sport in the United States, considering it is the wealthiest country in the world," Peres said yesterday in an interview.

Sporting Lisbon will be one of four teams in next month's Marlboro Cup of New York, a 4-year-old series of exhibition matches in the United States that has attracted some big name clubs from Europe and South America.

With soccer receiving scant attention in the United States, Peres says foreign teams can use opportunities like the Marlboro Cup to demonstrate world-class soccer to the US public.

"We're coming over here to teach and to spread the experience of football," Peres said. "We have world-class players on Sporting Lisbon. We're not coming here for vacation. We're here to teach and educate the American people about football abroad."

Fifa, soccer's Switzerland-based world governing body, has been criticised by some for awarding the quadrennial World Cup tournament to the United States, practically the only country where soccer is not a major spectator sport.

Unspecified

The top 24 teams will compete in the summer of 1994 in eight to 12 as yet unspecified sites in the United States.

Sporting Lisbon, which qualified for the Portuguese League for this season's UEFA Cup, will face Peruvian club Alianza of Lima on Aug. 10 in the first of two games at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, the former home of the once-famous, now-defunct Cosmos. The US national team plays Flamengo of Brazil in the second match.

The winners will compete for the championship Aug. 12 after the losers meet in a consolation match earlier in the day.

In 1990 the Marlboro Cups of Miami, Los Angeles and Chicago attracted the national teams of World Cup qualifiers Colombia, Costa Rica, Uruguay and the United States. Poland also competed.

In past years, the Marlboro Cup has attracted club teams such as Nacional of Medellin and Sporting Cristal of Colombia, Atlas and Chivas of Mexico and 1988 European Cup finalist Benfica of Portugal.



Game interrupted

New York Met's Kevin Elster carries a black kitten off the field after the kitten stopped play on Monday during the baseball game between Philadelphia Phillies and Mets in Philadelphia. (Reuters wirephoto)

SPORTS BRIEFS

Cup defender

EINDHOVEN, Holland, July 24, (UPI): Romanian World Cup central defender Gheorghe Popescu, 22, has joined PSV Eindhoven of Holland mainly because the club's sponsor was able to pay his transfer, not in money but in goods. The Rumanian soccer club Universitatea Craiova has traded its long-serving libero for among other things audio equipment, telecom and communication facilities and up-to-date floodlighting for its stadium.

Sponsorship lost

LONDON, July 24, (AP): Dutch airline KLM has decided not to extend its sponsorship of English First Division soccer club Queens Park Rangers, citing fan violence as its reason for withdrawing. British press reports said today. Quoted in the Times, KLM's general manager in London, Barry Evans, said he witnessed violent incidents involving English fans during the World Cup in Italy.

Record holder

SEATTLE, Washington, July 24, (Reuters): Carl Lewis, world record holder in the 100 metres, said he's not ready to be put out to pasture yet, despite a loss to training partner Leroy Burrell in the 100 metres yesterday. "I still feel I have the best race I will ever run left in me," Lewis, 29, said. "There is no question and no doubt in my mind that I can run faster than 9.92."

£600,000 deal

LONDON, July 24, (Reuters): English first division soccer club Queens Park Rangers have signed Czechoslovak World Cup goalkeeper Jan Stejskaly for £600,000 (\$1.09 million). Rangers managing director Clive Berl said on Monday Sparta Prague had refused to release Stejskaly until they were knocked out of the European Cup.

Tennis stadium

SANCTUARY COVE, Australia, July 24, (AP): A 4,000-seat stadium court will be built for the \$1-million Association of Tennis Professionals world doubles final November 21-25, organizers said today. The stadium will be constructed at Sanctuary Cove, a Japanese-owned resort and residential complex 50 miles (80 kilometres) south of Brisbane. The complex holds the rights to the event for the next three years.

Belgian defender

BRUSSELS, July 24, (UPI): Belgian World Cup defender Georges Gruu has signed a two-year contract with Italian soccer club Parma. Anderlecht manager Michel Verschueren said yesterday. The 28-year-old fullback, who captained Anderlecht for the past three years, will be the third foreigner with Parma.

Bayern player

BONN, July 24, (UPI): Bayern Munich defender Hans Pflueger yesterday ruled himself out of international action for two years because he feels he is unable to become a regular in the line-up. Pflueger said he saw no chance for himself on the left side of the defence against Inter Milan star Andreas Brehme, who scored the winning goal against Argentina in the final of the World Cup in Italy.

British golf

ST ANDREWS, Scotland, July 24, (UPI): British golf is to benefit by £1.5 million (\$2.7 million) from the 19th British Open which ended Sunday. Michael Bonallack, secretary of the Royal and Ancient, said record crowds of 206,000 at St Andrews had helped cover the £3.5 million (\$6.3 million) cost. The surplus would go into developing the game around the country.

Swiss soccer

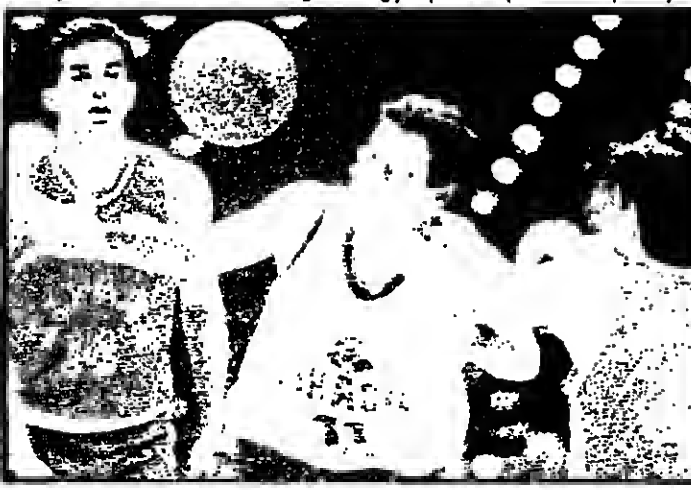
ZURICH, Switzerland, July 24, (UPI): Bolstered by a new TV contract, the 12-team Swiss First Division soccer competition enters its new season next Monday.

Turner to suffer over \$26m loss at Goodwill Games

Burrell beats Lewis, Joyner-Kersey wins heptathlon



Joyner-Kersey in action during the long jump event. (Reuters wirephoto)



An action shot from the Brazil-Spain basketball match at the Goodwill Games.

SEATTLE, July 24, (UPI): Leroy Burrell replaced Carl Lewis as the United States' fastest man last night, winning a stirring 100-metre duel and capping an explosive day at the Goodwill Games.

Burrell's win came after the American basketball team survived a scare as well as a brief brawl in its meeting with Puerto Rico. Also Summer Sanders reaffirmed her role as the United States' newest swimming star.

The first full week of the Games was spiced, meanwhile, by report of a defection to the United States by an ice hockey player from the Soviet Union and an admission by Ted Turner, founder of the competition, that to stage the event his broadcasting company would lose \$26 million or more.

In the last event of the evening, Jackie Joyner-Kersey easily kept alive her six-year winning streak in the heptathlon.

Lewis has been America's dominant sprinter since his college days in Houston during the early 1980s, repulsing one challenge after another. But Burrell, who trains with Lewis in Houston, has been poised to move past his mentor.

On the eve of their first meeting of the year, Burrell said it was not a matter of whether it was time for Lewis to lose.

"It is time for me to decide whether I have what it takes to win," Burrell said.

He showed last night he had what it takes, coming out of the blocks an instant behind Lewis but slowly drawing even. Then, with about 40 metres to go, Burrell clearly inched ahead and won by three-hundredths of a second.

Burrell was timed in 10.05 and Lewis in 10.08.

"Leroy ran better today," Lewis said. "He ran sharper. It should give America a great 1-2 punch for a long time."

"I didn't get the characteristic start that I wanted," Burrell said. "But I was very happy with the result. I'm very excited. I'm excited more because I handled the pressure and ran my own race."

Thanks to another good night in the swimming pool and a sweep in both the 100 metres and 110-metre hurdles at the track, the United States widened its lead in the Goodwill Games medal race. The Americans had won 69 medals overall with 25 of them gold. The Soviet Union had 20 gold medals and 59 total.

Although there was hectic action at several venues yesterday, the most physical came on the basketball floor, where Alonzo Mourning of Georgetown and Puerto Rico's Jose Ortiz were ejected from a game the United States nearly lost.

The Americans led by only a point with less than two minutes remaining before Georgia Tech's Kenny Anderson took over — scoring six points and producing a key assist to bring the United States a 100-94 victory that set up a showdown with the Soviet Union.

The Soviets had troubles of their own, fighting off Italy in a round-robin game yesterday, 88-85. Italian Riccardo Morandotti missed a three-point shot at the buzzer that would have put the game into overtime.

Away from the action, TBS reported hockey player Sergei Fedorov may be trying to defect while the Soviet team prepares for the Goodwill Games in the Pacific Northwest.

Fedorov, 20, who plays centre on the national team, was selected by the Detroit Red Wings in the fourth round of the 1989 NHL entry draft. In another non-athletic event, the Seattle Times said Turner admitted during the annual meeting of his broadcasting system that losses were mounting at the Games.

"We will sustain a deficit considerably more than \$13 million we had already written off," Turner said. He later indicated the deficit would be greater than that suffered in the 1986 Games, during which TBS lost \$26 million.

Back at the sporting venues, Burrell and Joyner-Kersey were joined as winners at the track by Americans Roger Kingdom in the 110-metre hurdles, Pattisue Plumer in the 3,000-metre run and Joe Falcon in the 5,000-metre run. Cuba's Ana Quirot added the 800-metre title to the 400-metre crown she won over the weekend and the Soviet Union's Rumus Ubartas claimed the discus gold.

Joyner-Kersey won the heptathlon with 6,783 points, well below her world record of 7,291.

In the swimming pool, Sanders put on her second outstanding show of the games. The 17-year-old Californian ended Janet Evans' four-year winning streak in the 400-metre individual medley Saturday by beating her personal best by more than eight seconds. She shaved more than two seconds off her best in the 200-metre individual medley to win the gold last night.

The round-robin competition ended in women's volleyball, where the Soviet Union and China both swept through their four-team groups unbeaten.



Leroy Burrell (left) crosses the finish line ahead of Lewis. (Reuters wirephoto)



Burrell waves an American flag while taking a victory lap. (Reuters wirephoto)

Huge javelin throws worry IAAF

LONDON, July 24, (AP): When javelin became a danger to other athletes, track and field chiefs altered them to make them fly shorter and stick safely in the ground.

With Steve Backley around, they may have to do it again.

The 31-year-old Englishman has just broken one barrier by hurling the safer javelin more than 90 metres (295 feet). With youth on his side and 216 pounds (98 kilograms) of power behind his throwing arm, rivals fear the world record holder soon will be aiming for 95 metres (311 feet) and even close to 100 (328 feet).

After Backley had thrown 90.98 metres (298 feet, six inches) in London last Friday, his coach, John Trower, said there was no one around to challenge him.

"The record will hold for a long time ... unless Steve breaks it," Trower said.

Backley is confident he can improve his record by some three metres this season, especially with the help of a new design of javelin currently being studied by the world governing body, the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

"The 90-metre barrier was just there to be broken," he said. "It is my ambition to get there first and now we will see where we go from here."

The 6-foot-5 (1.95-metre) Backley could even get in sight of the 104.80-metre (343-10) mark set by East German Uwe Hohn six years ago — the throw that persuaded track chiefs to put safety ahead of records.

Gravity.

They changed the rules four years ago and had the javelin's center of gravity moved forward 4 centimetres (1.5 inches) to make it dip and stick in the ground. The alteration meant a new set of less spectacular records had to be posted, but at least runners were no longer in danger of being speared as they ran round the track.

But Backley, a quiet sports-science student at Loughborough University who uses a scientist's jargon when talking javelins, is in such impressive form that new rule changes may be necessary.

Mike Gee, the IAAF official who oversees records, said the organisation will discuss the safety aspects of javelin throwing at its meeting next month.

"These really big throws have only happened recently and now people are getting worried about them," he said. "Obviously we are not going to wait until it reaches 104 metres again before we do something."

Friday's throw stretched the world record by 1.32 metres (4-4) to 90.98. Backley did it

using a rival's javelin.

That javelin was developed by 1976 Olympic champion Milos Nemeth and is named after him. It is yet to be approved for major events, such as the Olympics and European championships, but has produced startling results.

Backley set a world record of 89.58 (293-11) a month ago using his regular javelin and avoided using the Nemeth, which was thrown by Jan Zeleny of Czechoslovakia 89.66 (294-2) 12 days later to reclaim the world mark.

When Backley finally threw the new model, he was amazed by the result — and had the world record back.

Difference

"I saw the way the Nemeth was flying out there and I thought I'd give it a try," he said. "The difference was phenomenal. I think you're talking about three metres difference."

Backley has come from relative obscurity to world record fame in less than two years.

He won a silver medal at the World Junior Championships in Sudbury, Ontario, in July 1988. After considering his spurning track and field scholarships in the United States, he won gold medals a year later at the European Cup in Gateshead, England; the World Student Games at Duisburg, West Germany; and World Cup in Barcelona.

30,000-man strong force to police Asian Games

BEIJING, July 24, (Reuters): China will ensure order at the Asian Games in Beijing in September with a 30,000-strong security force, an official newspaper said today.

The force, five times the number of athletes and officials attending the games, included paramilitary men and civilians as well as regular police, the Legal Daily said.

They began training in March and will be aided by metal detectors, X-ray machines and sophisticated security equipment.

A West German security expert who helped to combat the

commando attack on the Munich Olympics in 1972 has advised the organisers on security measures, the newspaper said.

It gave no further details and West German embassy officials had no immediate information.

"There will be 19 security command posts around the city, suburban counties and gymnasiums," the newspaper said.

The athletes' village, which will house competitors and coaches, is ringed by a chain link fence and will be guarded by cameras, an alarm system and 24-hour police patrols.

Bein to join Italian soccer club

BONN, July 24, (UPI): Uwe Bein, the West German World Cup midfielder who drove Eintracht Frankfurt to its highest Bundesliga finish in a decade last season, has finalised terms for a transfer to Italian First Division club AC Florence, the player confirmed yesterday.

Now it is left for the clubs to agree a fee for the 29-year-old. Bein has been offered an annual 1.5 million marks (\$900,000) by the Italian club, roughly tripling his current earnings. "The offer is so attractive, I can't say no," Bein said.

Bein's announcement is the latest in a string of top West German players being lured away by Italian clubs' ability to offer generous financial packages.

West German World Cup players Lothar Matthaus, Andreas Brehme, Juergen Klinsmann (all Inter Milan) and Thomas Berthold and Rudi Voeller (both as Roma) are already established stars in the Italian First Division.

By the start of the new season, midfielder Thomas Haessler formerly of Cologne and striker Karlheinz Riedle of Werder Bremen will have joined them.

Both Haessler and Riedle, both aged 24, became jointly the third most expensive players in soccer history with their transfer fees of 15 million marks (\$8.8 million) which will take them to Juventus and Lazio respectively.

During a holiday after the World Cup, Bein had travelled to Italy again for talks with Florence officials, which left no doubt in his mind that he wanted to join the Italian club.



Bein: lured by Florence

Karpov draws with Andersson to stay on top



Karpov, has collected three points

BIENNE, Switzerland, July 24, (AP): The fourth round of the International Grandmasters Chess Tournament last night was a point-shedding round that left top favourite Anatoly Karpov at the top of the intermediate standings.

The Soviet world championship finalist, playing black, and Sweden's Ulf Andersson settled to a draw after 31 moves.

Andersson, ranked 11th world-wide, was joined in second place in the standings by two West Germans, Czechoslovak-born Vlastimil Hort ranked 94th, and up-and-coming Matthias Wahls. The 22-year-old Wahls does not yet show on the International Chess Federation's list of the world's top 100 players.

Hort, playing black, defeated British-born American grandmaster Anthony Miles, ranked 33rd, in an adjourned third round game and then went on to agree to a draw with Nick de

Firmian, the 65th ranked American. Wahls drew with Lev Polugaevsky, ranked 21st, who has picked up just one point in four games.

Results: Third round: Anthony Miles, United States — Vlastimil Hort, West Germany 0-1 (63 moves).

Fourth round: Nick de Firmian, United States — Hort, 0.5-0.5 (26 moves).

Joel Lautier, France, — Anthony Miles, United States 0.5-0.5 (43 moves).

Ulf Andersson, Sweden — Anatoly Karpov, Soviet Union, 0.5-0.5 (31 moves).

Lev Polugaevsky, Soviet Union — Matthias Wahls, West Germany, 0.5-0.5 (52 moves).

Standings: 1. Karpov, 3 points, 2. Andersson, Wahls, Hort, 2.5 points, 5. De Firmian, 2, 6. Miles and Polugaevsky, 1, 8. Lautier, 0.5.